

2004

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT



for the
Nebraska
Housing and Community Development Programs
Consolidated Plan

Including **Federal Programs**:
Non-entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)
Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)
and the **State Programs**:
Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF)
Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF)

July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005

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Community and Rural Development Division

Nebraska Department of Economic Development

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Action Plan Acronym List	
Acronym	Full Name
AHP	Affordable Housing Program
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANCHoR	Automated National Client-specific Homeless services Recording
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CHAS	Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy
CHDO	Community Housing Development Organization
CNF	Community Need Factors
COSCDAA	Council of State Community Development Agencies
CR	Comprehensive Revitalization
DED	Nebraska Department of Economic Development
DEQ	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
EPA	Environmental Policy Act
ESG	Emergency Shelter Grant
ESGP	Emergency Shelter Grant Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIC	Family Investment Centers
FNMA	Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae)
GNMA	Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae)
HAP	Homeless Assistance Program
HCDCC	Holistic Community Development Consulting Committee
HHSS	Nebraska Health and Human Services System
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOPE	Home Ownership for People Everywhere
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
HSATF	Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund
HUD	U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
LMI	Persons with Low to Moderate Income
NAHRO	National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
NAHTF	Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund
NCHH	Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness
NCIP	Nebraska Community Improvement Program
NHAP	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program
NHDA	Nebraska Housing Developers Association
NIFA	Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
NMISP	Nebraska Management Information System Partners
NRD	Nebraska Natural Resources Department
PHDEP	Public Housing Drug Elimination Program
PW	Public Works
RDC	Rural Development Commission
SRO	Single Room Occupancy Housing Program
TIF	Tax Increment Financing
TOP	Public Housing Tenant Opportunities Program
USDA - RD	U. S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development
WW	Water Wastewater
YSP	Youth Sport Program

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Section One:

Introduction and Citizen Participation

Introduction

Purpose

The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) reports progress on the *Nebraska Community and Rural Development Consolidated Plan* (the *Consolidated Plan*), a five-year plan addressing the state's Community and Rural Development needs. The purpose of the CAPER is to:

1. **Show** the state's five-year priorities and strategies for housing, homelessness, non-housing community development and the community development delivery system;
2. **Summarize** the actions taken during the 2004 program year to meet the five-year strategies;
3. **Report** how funds received from these programs were used to meet the identified priorities;
4. **Describe** the state's method for distributing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESG), Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) funds, and Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) funds. Activities funded from these programs must meet the priorities identified in the five-year *Consolidated Plan*;
5. **List** the resources that may be used by grantees and the state to further the five-year strategies;
6. **Report** actions taken by the state that are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), such as lead-based paint actions and removal of barriers to affordable housing; and
7. **Review** citizen comments about the CAPER and give a response from the Department of Economic Development (DED).

Amount of Funds

This report summarizes the distribution of funds for two state programs and three federal programs for the 2004 program year. Funds received for these programs totaled over \$27.2 million:

- \$14,434,170 in CDBG funds
- \$5,485,713 in HOME funds
- \$517,055 in HOME ADDI, DPA funds (Included Federal FY03 & FY04)
- \$528,499 in ESG funds
- \$1,600,000 in HSATF funds
- \$4,700,000 in NAHTF funds

The CAPER also describes program priorities, use of funds and any funds (1) remaining or recaptured from previous CDBG allocations, (2) reallocated by HUD to the state and (3) program income distributed by the state during the 2004 program year.

The 2004 CAPER

The 2004 CAPER is the fifth and final of five annual performance reports. Each report describes the one-year actions and funding priorities used to carry out the five-year *Consolidated Plan*, a comprehensive planning document identifying the state's housing development, economic development and community development needs. As the lead state agency responsible for the five-year *Consolidated Plan*, DED must also complete the annual action plans and annual performance reports to receive federal funds for the HUD CDBG, HOME and ESG programs. Covering all areas of the state (except Omaha and Lincoln, which are required to submit and prepare their own Consolidated Plans), the *Consolidated Plan* establishes funding priorities for these programs, outlines strategies, and annually identifies a one-year action plan for program implementation and funding.

Specifically the purpose of this consolidated annual performance evaluation report is to demonstrate how activities undertaken during the 2004 program year address pertinent Strategic Plan strategies and priorities identified in the 2000 Consolidated Plan. Sections two, three and four of the CAPER give the three major priorities of the state and the strategies that were set in the Consolidated Plan. In addition Section six has been added to the CAPER to provide additional background and progress reporting on the states homeless services programs administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System. These sections go into more detail by stating the objectives and performance measurements that were set for each strategy for the 2004 program year. A progress report is given for each performance measurement, the progress reports summarize the activities that were taken during the 2004 program year so that citizens reviewing the report are able to assess the progress that has been made towards meeting the 5-year priorities and strategies that were established in the Consolidated Plan.

Strategies do not describe every activity to be undertaken by the state. Instead, the strategies provide direction in the form of a priority need with objectives, performance measures, and completion dates. Objectives serve as examples of the activities to be initiated during those five years. Strategies and objectives may be added, deleted, or modified in subsequent annual action plans.

Nebraska's Consolidated Planning Process

In summary, Nebraska's Consolidated Planning Process serves the following functions:

- Provide a 5 year planning document for the State which builds on a comprehensive consultation and citizens participation process;
- Serve as an application for federal funds under HUD's formula grant programs;
- Provide a strategy for housing, homelessness, community and economic development;

- Develop an action plan that provides a basis for measuring and assessing performance; and
- Provide annual performance and evaluation reports.

The consolidated planning process is an opportunity for strategic planning and citizen participation to take place in a comprehensive context. The process brings local governments, community organizations, state and federal agencies, service providers, and citizens together to address the larger picture in which the programs operate. It also offers the state an opportunity to shape the various programs into an efficient continuum of service delivery.

Strategies and recommendations were developed with public input and consultation from advisory groups, local community leaders, concerned citizens, nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, the private sector and representatives of state and federal agencies.

HUD specifies a number of elements for a state Consolidated Plan including:

- an assessment of housing, homeless, community and economic development needs for the ensuing five-year period;
- an analysis of the state's housing market;
- a discussion of the state's priority needs, strategies, and objectives for housing and community development activities;
- an action plan that describes the state's method for distributing funds to carry out activities using funds that are expected to be received under formula allocations and other HUD assistance during the program year and;
- performance measures to assure that the delivery of these needed housing and community development products and services are provided.

Citizen Participation

Opportunities for Public Participation

Public participation with the 2004 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) (including review by the advisory groups) is important to the state. Citizens and other interested parties are given access to information and records relating to the CAPER and programs it covers.

Copies of Annual Performance Evaluation Reports, Annual Action Plans, the *Consolidated Plan* and any other relevant information are all available by contacting anyone within the Department of Economic Development and also are on the Community and Rural Development Division's web-site at: http://crd.neded.org/plans_reports/index.htm

Comment Period

A public comment period is available beginning August 22, 2005 and ending September 6, 2005 for the 2004 Proposed CAPER. The state received one comment concerning the 2004 Proposed CAPER. Below is a summary of the comment and the states response.

CDBG Comment: No Community Education that is relevant to indoor causes of poor water/air. Such as: Outdated plumbing fixtures, outdated septic systems, outdated or non-existent indoor air filtration/circulation. ESG Comment: Stricter enforcement of Landlord/Tenant Act. Current laws do not define nor enforce negligence and renter deposit fraud on the part of landlords. HOME Comment: There is no active affirmative marketing and minority outreach for this program. There are no minority owners of rental property. There were no expenses on the APR for 2004-2005 minority owners nor relocation expenses of displaced renters. Removal of Barriers to Affordable Housing: re-define "Affordable" housing to make it relevant to real poverty wages/income.

Thank you for your comments. The state will consider these comments as the 2006 Annual Action Plan is developed.

Public Notices and Press Coverage

- Public notices about the public comment period were placed in the Lincoln Journal Star, Scottsbluff Star-Herald, North Platte Telegraph, Norfolk Daily News, Kearney Daily Hub, Alliance Times-Herald, Ainsworth Star Journal, Chadron Record, Nebraska City New-Press and Grand Island Independent.
- A news release announcing the comment period was sent to media statewide.
- In order to increase the opportunities for public comment, the proposed 2004 CAPER was sent to 16 libraries throughout Nebraska: Alliance Public Library (**Alliance**), Auburn Memorial Library (**Auburn**), Garfield County Library (**Burwell**), Central City Public Library (**Central City**), Chadron Public Library (**Chadron**), Lexington Public Library (**Lexington**), Bennett Martin Library (**Lincoln**), McCook Public Library (**McCook**), Jensen Memorial Library (**Minden**), Goodall City Library (**Ogallala**), Omaha Public Library (**Omaha**), Scottsbluff Public Library (**Scottsbluff**), Sidney Public Library

(**Sidney**), Thomas County Library (**Thedford**), Valentine Public Library (**Valentine**), and Wayne Public Library (**Wayne**).

- The CAPER is available on the Community and Rural Development Division web-site at: http://crd.neded.org/plans_reports/index.htm. The availability of the CAPER on the web was e-mailed to DED distribution lists.

Targeted Mailings

- The Notice of Public Comment Period for the proposed CAPER was mailed to members of the state's official advisory groups including the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness, CDBG Advisory Committee, and the Economic Development Commission. In addition, the notice of public comment period was also mailed to the NHAP Advisory Committee as well as the Chronic Homeless Planning Committee, State Senators and Congressional Delegates.

Advisory Groups

Official advisory groups to the state on the 2004 CAPER are the CDBG Advisory Committee, Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness and the Nebraska Economic Development Commission.

Criteria for Substantial Change

DED reserves the right to make non-substantive changes to the *Consolidated Plan* (including annual action plans and performance reports) without opening a public comment period. A change to the *Consolidated Plan*, which constitutes an amendment or a substantial change meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Addition or deletion of a priority.
- Addition of a strategy not consistent with an existing priority.
- Deletion of a strategy that was previously included.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

Nebraska's performance measurement system for the identification, determination, tracking and reporting of demonstrated benefits is under preparation using the draft guidance provided in the Federal Register /Vol. 70, No. 111 released June 10, 2005. The state is preparing to collect additional output indicators to report objectives and outcomes as indicated in the Federal Register Notice of Draft Outcome Performance Measurement System for Community Planning and Development Formula Grant Programs. It is anticipated that performance measurements will be tracked through the fully redesigned IDIS, which is scheduled for completion of the first phase in late 2006 or early 2007. The state will prepare to send staff to the HUD training anticipated in Calendar year 2006.

Section Two: Housing Development Priority

*Respond to regional needs for affordable, decent,
safe and appropriate housing, shelter and services as
part of balanced economic development in Nebraska.*

Strategies, Objectives & Measurements

The six (6) strategies developed to meet this priority included:

- **Promote an adequate supply of quality, affordable, appropriate housing for low-and moderate-income individuals, families, and homeowners, including persons with special housing needs.**
- **Overcome barriers to homeownership for low- and moderate-income families and individuals, including persons with special housing needs.**
- **Promote an adequate supply of quality, affordable, appropriate rental housing as a choice when homeownership is not a feasible option for low- and moderate-income individuals, families, including persons with special housing needs.**
- **Support and facilitate an active and effective regional continuum of care planning and delivery system focusing on a comprehensive approach to housing and service delivery to people who are homeless and near-homeless.**
- **Identify and address the barriers of homeownership, rental housing, support services, and shelters due to violations of fair housing practices.**
- **Identify and address a strategy for reduction of lead-based paint hazards in rural areas of the state.**

Background

HUD requires the state to report the activities it plans to undertake during the next year to:

- Address obstacles to meeting underserved needs;
- Foster and maintain affordable housing (including the coordination of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits with the development of affordable housing);
- Remove barriers to affordable housing;
- Evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards;
- Reduce the number of poverty level families;
- Develop an improved institutional structure; and
- Enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies and foster public housing resident initiatives.

These requirements are reflected in the housing strategies, objectives, and actions for the 2004 Program year.

As shown in the Housing Needs Assessment section (Part Four) of the state's *Consolidated Plan*, a great need exists in the non-metropolitan areas of the state for available housing stock that is affordable. Two primary issues exist: housing availability and affordability.

Available, affordable housing is an economic development issue. Future growth in Nebraska communities is directly linked to the provision of affordable housing. Many communities along the Interstate 80 corridor, and service centers in other areas have experienced tremendous economic growth in the 1990s, but have been unable to meet the demand for additional housing. For communities to survive in the global economy, they must address the need for available and affordable housing. Housing conditions and markets are not universal throughout Nebraska. Besides economic growth, housing needs often reflect the socioeconomic composition of the community, county and region. For citizens, housing needs vary by householder, tenure, age, income, and other special needs.

Housing availability must be addressed. 1990 US Census figures show that almost 25% of the state's non-metropolitan housing units are substandard. Areas experiencing economic growth are generally experiencing a critical shortage of affordable housing. The ability of the private sector to house new employees is severely hindered.

Affordability issues also must be addressed. The lower the income, the greater the need for housing assistance. The Housing Priority Needs Summary Table in the *Consolidated Plan* shows all income groups other than very low- and low-income households (up to 80% of median family income for the area) as medium priority. This ranking acknowledges the importance of all housing needs and allows applicants for federal funding to obtain certification of consistency with the state's housing strategy. Consequently, the state gives highest priority to assisting very low and low income households, targeting those earning less than 50% of median income when appropriate.

The 2002 Nebraska Affordable Housing Program included additional methods to adopt an outcome-based outlook in implementing the funding programs. The Department of Economic Development is an investor in affordable housing in Nebraska. This means that DED expects a return on its investments. This return may not be to the department directly, but should be to the citizens of Nebraska and may be social benefits rather than financial benefits in some cases. It is anticipated that with a well-managed affordable housing program there will bring direct financial gains to the Department of Economic Development. Some examples of these gains are: (1) A not for profit organization that is successful in implementing projects is far less likely to need direct subsidy for operating support because of the project administration funds and the ability to attract local investment and (2) A low-income person assisted in purchasing a home is more likely to stay in the community and with the employer, which results in a stabilized workforce and a decrease in the department's resources to be used for workforce development, job training, and recruitment. It is also anticipated that there will be second-order gains to the State of Nebraska. Some examples of second-order gains are: (1) An elderly person provided a desirable and reasonable affordable housing opportunity is more likely to remain in the community and offer valuable volunteer services to the benefit of the community and its citizens. This also will increase the quality of life for these people and these communities, (2) A very low-income person on direct economic assistance, is in need of less assistance if their home is energy

efficient and affordable, (3) A person provided with more affordable housing than they had previously, has more disposable, expendable income to contribute to the local economy, and (4) Housing development resulting in more units, results in a higher base for local property tax revenue.

The Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness

The Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH) was established by Executive Order in 1998. This commission consolidates the work of the Nebraska Affordable Housing Commission, the Nebraska Interagency Council on the Homeless, and the Affordable Housing Trust Advisory Committee, and recognizes the strong link among housing, homelessness, and near homeless issues.

The Commission's function is to make recommendations to DED and the Health and Human Services System Department of Services (HHSS) on the operation of the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund; serve as an advisory body on housing and homelessness; assist with education, advocacy, coordination and cooperation; and integrate recommendations from *Nebraska's Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan* and Annual Action Plan with other statewide strategic planning initiatives involved with affordable housing, homelessness/near homelessness, and other housing issues.

Actions for the 2004 Program Year

The state views the provision of affordable housing as a high priority, especially for persons/families making 80% of median income or less. The state works with public, private and nonprofit organizations to identify needs, fill gaps in services, and provide technical assistance in the area of housing. Actions that were planned for 2004 to further this goal are a result of the priority for funding and strategies set by the state in 2000 in the *Consolidated Plan*.

Each of the six housing strategies listed above have objectives and measurements that were planned by the state for the 2004 program year. The objectives and performance measurements that were planned for the six housing strategies are listed below along with a progress report detailing the headway made under each performance measurement during the 2004 program year. The following rating system is used to evaluate the measurements that were accomplished during the program year:

- A → Activity Exceeded Measurement
- P → Performance Satisfied Measurement
- R → Reasonable Progress Made
- N → No Progress Made

■ Strategy One

Promoted an adequate supply of quality affordable, appropriate housing for low- and moderate- income individuals, families and homeowners, including persons with special housing needs.

Objective #1: Operate the AHP organizational operating grant process as a capacity building process to assist not for profit housing organizations in increasing the capacity to produce and provide access to affordable housing. This AHP organizational capacity building grant process focuses on short-term investments (approximately 3 years) in nonprofit housing organizations for their operating expenses. These organizations will demonstrate that they will be viable and sustainable organizations without the AHP organizational operating expense assistance after the short-term investment.

Performance Measurement: 11 non-profit housing organizations that began participation in the capacity building process in the 2002 program year will achieve targets and milestones identified in the Outcome Framework Target Plan developed between the recipient and the department.

***P Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year 10 non-profit housing organizations from the 2002 capacity building process achieved targets and milestones which were identified in the Outcome Framework Target Plan.*

Performance Measurement: Two non-profit housing organizations that begin participation in the capacity building process in the 2003 program year will achieve targets and milestones identified in the Outcome Framework Target Plan developed between the recipient and the department.

***P Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year one non-profit housing organization from the 2003 capacity building process achieved targets and milestones identified in the Outcome Framework Target Plan.*

Objective #2: Invest in rehabilitation of existing housing for low- and moderate-income homeowners using a regional service delivery system with investment in communities that are actively following a locally developed strategic plan to identify and meet community development, economic development and housing needs.

Performance Measurement: 200 owner-occupied homes will be targeted to be rehabilitated as a result of 2003 DED AHP funds.

***P Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year DED awarded \$3,143,102 to 14 local governments and/or non-profit housing organizations to rehabilitate 169 owner-occupied homes. Forty-five of those units were provided funding through two disaster grants.*

■ Strategy Two

Overcome barriers to homeownership for low- and moderate-income families and individuals, including persons with special housing needs.

Lack of available resources to purchase a home is identified as the primary barrier to homeownership. DED AHP investment will be used for direct assistance to homebuyers including down-payment assistance, closing cost assistance and gap subsidy. In addition DED AHP investment will be used to assist in the development of housing to increase the supply of available safe, decent, affordable housing for homebuyers.

Objective #1: Invest DED AHP funds in assisting low-income homebuyers.

Performance Measurement: 300 low-income homebuyers will be targeted to purchase homes partially through assistance from 2004 DED AHP funds for homebuyer programs.

***P Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year DED awarded \$4,571,898 to 21 local governments and/or non-profit housing for homebuyer programs to assist 207 low-income homebuyers.*

■ Strategy Three

Promote an adequate supply of quality affordable, appropriate rental housing as a choice when homeownership is not a feasible option for low- and moderate-income families and individuals, including persons with special housing needs.

The department will continue to work closely with the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) in coordinating the use of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits with Nebraska Affordable Housing Program funds to effectively fund rental development in the state. The NAHP rental housing applications will be available to the Technical Assistance Review Process (TARP) team. TARP members consist of staff from NIFA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA RD), Nebraska Energy Office (NEO) and Nebraska State Historical Society. TARP members meet once a month. DED staff review and score applications for funding.

Objective #1: Invest in rental housing for families and individuals for whom homeownership is not feasible and/or desired.

Performance Measurement: 75 rental units for persons who are low-income will be targeted to be developed or preserved due to the investment of 2004 DED AHP funds.

***R Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year DED awarded \$830,520 to two local governments and/or non-profit housing organizations for the development of 27 rental units for persons who are low-income.*

■ Strategy Four

Support and facilitate an active and effective regional Continuum of Care planning and delivery system focusing on a comprehensive approach to housing and service delivery to people who are homeless and near homeless.

Objective #1: The Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) will assist the advisory committee to the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) in strengthening the organizational structure of the advisory committee and regional and local (sub region) Continuums of Care (CoC). This will be accomplished using appropriate tools, such as developing bylaws or other policies and procedures, participation in the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH) Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Chronic Homelessness, or technical assistance.

Performance Measurement: The proposed outcome is increased participatory involvement in the continuum of care process at the state, regional and local (sub region) levels.

P

Progress Report: During the 2004 program year, the Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) provided assistance to the advisory committee of the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program, which is the Continuum of Care Committee of the NCHH. The committee accomplished the following activities:

- (1) adopted bylaws and operational procedures for the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness Continuum of Care Committee (advisory committee to the NHAP);
- (2) adopted the NCHH Ad Hoc Committee ten-year plan on ending chronic homelessness;
- (3) adopted guidelines for Regional Continuums of Care;
- (4) developed a brochure about Nebraska's Continuum of Care system to be distributed for educational and membership purposes.

Regional Continuums of Care:

- (5) adopted policies and procedures for Regional Continuums of Care on outreach to those not represented in regional CoC planning;
- (6) were represented on a conference planning committee that worked with the Nebraska Housing Developers Association to hold concurrent conferences on housing and homelessness to raise awareness about housing and homelessness issues. Collaboration included shared access by conference attendees to workshop and plenary sessions.

NHAP staff:

- (7) developed a housing survey that was distributed to public housing authorities and affordable housing developers across the state. Compiled and summarized data received to create a report showing availability of public housing vouchers and housing units by Continuum of Care regions. Disseminated housing report to the seven regional continuums (that service all 93 Nebraska

counties) to assist regions in accessing housing for people who are chronically homeless as well as other populations of people who are homeless.

Objective #2: HHSS will compile data from grantee monthly reports and disseminate the information to the regions. The data may be used by grantees and other Continuum of Care members to better serve people who are homeless and near homeless. The compilation of statewide data will serve as the Homeless Management Inventory System (HMIS) until grantees and other Continuum of Care members implement a statewide system.

Performance Measurement: Reports will be posted on the NHAP Website and/or mailed to grantees on an annual basis. Chairs of regional Continuums of Care will ensure the information is imparted to regional and local (sub region) Continuum of Care members.

P Progress Report: During the 2004 program year, the Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) supported the formation of the Nebraska Management Information System. Since July of 2004, representatives from three charter members incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) to manage and implement the HMIS statewide. The legal name of the organization is the Nebraska Management Information System (NMIS). This statewide system will help ensure that an unduplicated count can be aggregated effectively. All seven Continuum of Care regions will be participants in the NMIS. Omaha, an entitlement city, and the Omaha Area Continuum on Housing and Homelessness (OACHH), joined the NMIS July 1, 2005 and anticipate implementing ServicePoint, the HMIS program selected by NMIS, early in 2006.

Each member has a system administrator who works with agencies to implement HMIS at the local level. Currently there are system administrators in the eastern, central, and western parts of the state. Each works with the regional Continuums of Care to implement HMIS for agencies in their respective regions. An individual agency can implement HMIS through a member and the system administrator for its respective area.

Additional members are able to join the NMIS. Membership requires (1) payment of \$1,000 membership fee and (2) hiring a system administrator. Joining as a member helps ensure security of data.

Each regional Continuum of Care is responsible for developing a plan to implement HMIS in its region.

Until full implementation of the NMIS, the NHAP staff continues to monitor reports submitted monthly by grantees. Data are compiled manually from spreadsheets maintained by NHAP staff. Reports are distributed to the regional continuums at six and 12-month intervals. The six-month report was distributed February 2005; the year-end report is distributed in August of 2005.

■ Strategy Five

Identify and address the barriers of homeownership, rental housing, support services, and shelters due to violations of fair housing practices.

A primary barrier to affordable housing in Nebraska is the availability of safe, decent, affordable housing, particularly to persons with extremely low-income and/or special housing needs, such as accessibility.

Objective #1: Invest DED AHP funds in assisting low-income persons with special needs, a historically underserved population, with meeting their housing needs.

Performance Measurement: 20 low-income persons with special needs will be targeted to be assisted partially through assistance from 2004 DED AHP.

***P** Progress Report:* During the 2004 program year DED awarded \$683,060 funds to 3 local governments and non-profit housing organizations, assisting 36 low-income persons with special needs.

Objective #2: Require DED grant recipients to take steps to affirmatively further fair housing.

Performance Measurement: 40 DED grantees will take additional steps locally to affirmatively further fair housing.

***A** Progress Report:* During the 2004 program year 119 DED grants/loans were awarded with a special condition for grantees to affirmatively further fair housing.

■ Strategy Six

Identify and address a strategy for reduction of lead-based paint hazards in rural areas of the state.

Objective #1: HHSS – Department of Regulation and Licensure will implement a statewide Rural Lead-Based Paint Hazard Evaluation and Reduction Program.

Performance Measurement: HHSS – Department of Regulation and Licensure will continue to ensure proper statewide implementation of the Rural Lead-based Paint Hazard Evaluation and Reduction Program.

***A** Progress Report:* During the 2004 program year HHSS – Department of Regulation and Licensure approved 129 households to be assisted and completed lead reduction services to 76 households through the Rural Lead-Based Paint Hazard Evaluation and Reduction Program.

Objective #2: Increase the number of Certified Risk Assessors and Paint Inspectors.

Performance Measurement: There will be 15 risk assessors and paint inspectors serving rural Nebraska. HHSS – Department of Regulation and Licensure will track this with their certification list.

A ***Progress Report:*** *During the 2004 program year 115 risk assessors and 4 paint inspectors received or maintained licensing through HHSS Department of Regulation and Licensure to provide services in Nebraska*

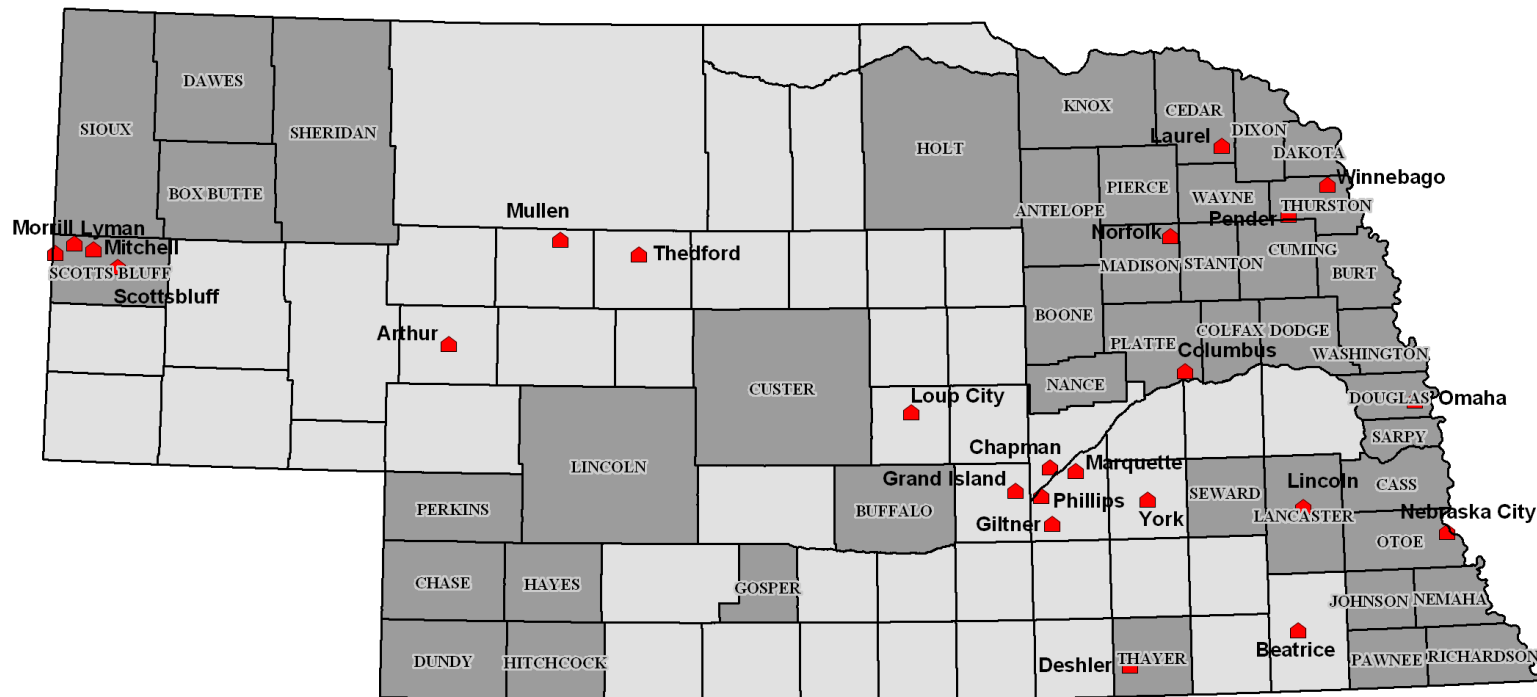
Nebraska Department of Economic Development 2004 Affordable Housing Program Awards

Funding Source	Project Number	Applicant	Description	Award Amount	Location of Award	Activity	# of Units	# VLI units
HOME	04CH32202	Lincoln County CDC	SF Housing New Construction Homeownership	\$242,468	Lincoln County	HB	2	
HOME	04CH40202	Community Action Partnership	Housing Purchase Rehab Resale	\$200,000	Buffalo County	HB	6	
HOME	04CH41302	The Housing Development Corp.	Housing Purchase Rehab Resale	\$207,100	Grand Island	HB	9	
HOME	04CH51202	Elkhorn Valley CDC	Housing Purchase Rehab Resale	\$400,000	Norfolk	HB	17	
HOME	04CH51402	Three Rivers Housing Dev. Corp	Housing Purchase Rehab Resale	\$250,710	Burt, Cuming, Dodge, and Washington Counties	HB	8	
HOME	04CH52002	Wayne CHDO	Housing Purchase Rehab Resale	\$251,940	Wayne County	HB	12	
HOME	04CH60102	Blue Valley Community Action	New Construction Rental Housing	\$500,000	York	Rental	12	
HOME	04OE10402	Western NE Housing Opportunity	Direct Homeownership Assistance	\$90,000	Scotts Bluff County	HB	10	
HOME	04OE11502	High Plains Community Develop.	Direct Homebuyer Assistance	\$60,000	Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux Counties	HB	18	
HOME	04OE20302	Northeast NE Econ Devel Distr.	Downpayment Assistance	\$200,000	Boone, Antelope, Nance, and Knox Counties	HB	15	
HOME	04OE20402	Northeast NE Econ Devel Distr.	Housing Rehabilitation	\$300,000	Boone, Antelope, Nance, and Knox Counties	OOR	14	
HOME	04OE50102	Northeast Housing Initiative	Housing Purchase/Rehab/Resale	\$392,000	Cedar, Dixon, and Knox Counties	HB	13	
HOME	04OE50202	Northeast NE Econ Devel Distr.	Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance	\$61,400	Northeast Investment Zone	HB	4	
HOME	04OE50203	Northeast Econ. Dev., Inc	Housing Rehabilitation	\$288,600	Northeast Investment Zone	OOR	14	
HOME	04OE50402	Ho-Chunk Comm Devel Corp	New Construction Downpayment Assistance	\$200,000	Winnebago	HB	4	
HOME	04OE60202	Hsg Ag of the City of Beatrice	New Construction of Rental units for elderly	\$362,320	Beatrice	Rental	11	1
HOME	04OE62102	SE NE Community Action Council	New Construction Rental Housing	\$468,200	Nebraska City	Rental	16	1
			TOTAL HOME ALLOCATIONS	\$4,474,738			185	2
CDBG	04HO101	City of Scottsbluff	Housing Rehabilitation	\$200,000	Scottsbluff	OOR	8	
CDBG	04HO102	City of Mitchell	Housing Rehabilitation	\$150,000	Mitchell, Lyman, Morrill	OOR	8	
CDBG	04HO205	City of Loup City	Housing Rehabilitation	\$196,000	Loup City	OOR	10	
CDBG	04HO206	Village of Phillips	Housing Rehabilitation	\$300,000	Phillips, Marquette, Giltner, Chapman	OOR	13	
CDBG	04HO303	Village of Mullen	Housing Rehabilitation	\$150,000	Mullen, Thedford, Arthur	OOR	7	

CDBG	04HO306	Gosper County	Housing Rehabilitation	\$100,000	Gosper County	OOR	6	
CDBG	04HO509	Village of Pender	Housing Rehabilitation	\$158,502	Pender	OOR	8	
CDBG	04HO510	City of Columbus	Housing Rehabilitation	\$53,400	Columbus	OOR	3	
CDBG	04HP201	Custer County	Downpayment Assistance	\$120,000	Custer County	HB	11	
CDBG	04HP506	Laurel	Downpayment Assistance	\$135,700	Laurel	HB	5	
CDBG	04HP511	Columbus	Downpayment Assistance	\$196,600	Columbus	HB	10	
CDBG	04HP601	Seward	Downpayment Assistance	\$308,000	Seward County	HB	20	
			TOTAL CDBG ALLOCATIONS	\$2,068,202			109	0
Trust Fund	04TFDH601	Lincoln Action Program	Disaster Housing Rehabilitation	\$400,000	Lancaster County	Disaster	31	
Trust Fund	04TFDH602	Blue Valley Community Action	Disaster Housing Rehabilitation	\$400,000	Deshler, Thayer County	Disaster	14	
Trust Fund	04TFHO207	CORE Development, Inc.	Housing Rehabilitation	\$300,000	Antelope and Holt Counties	OOR	25	
Trust Fund	04TFHP103	Western NE Housing Opportunity	Single Family Housing New Construction	\$146,600	Scotts Bluff County	OOR	8	
Trust Fund	04TFHP202	Northeast Housing Initiative	Housing Purchase Rehab Resale	\$119,980	Knox County	HB	5	
Trust Fund	04TFHP305	Southwest NE Comm. Betterment	Housing Purchase/Rehab/Resale	\$170,000	Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Hitchcock, and Hayes Counties	HB	4	
Trust Fund	04TFHP703	City of Omaha	Housing Property Acquisition	\$416,000	Omaha	HB	8	
Trust Fund	04TFHP802	Neighborhoods Inc.	Downpayment Assistance	\$270,000	Lincoln	HB	10	
Trust Fund	04TFHP803	Neighborhoods Inc.	Downpayment Assistance	\$280,000	Lincoln	HB	16	
Trust Fund	04TFTA601	SE NE Community Action Council	Technical Assistance	\$20,000	Cass, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson & Sarpy Counties	TA	0	
Trust Fund	04TFTA902	ISANTI Community Resident Organization	Technical Assistance	\$40,000	Knox County & Santee Nation Reservation	TA	0	
Trust Fund	04TFTA903	Native Council on Econ Dev	Technical Assistance	\$40,000	Omaha Indian Reservation	TA	0	
			TOTAL NAHTF ALLOCATIONS	\$2,602,580			121	0
			TOTAL AHP ALLOCATIONS	\$9,145,520			415	2

2004 Nebraska Affordable Housing Program Awards

Nebraska Department of Economic Development



Map indicates location of housing projects awarded through non-profit organizations and local governments

Section Three: Community Development Priority

*Strengthen Nebraska communities through
community development programs and services.*

The four (4) five-year strategies developed to meet this priority are:

- **Assist communities and counties with strategic planning that results in long-term development investments**
- **Improve the quality of water and wastewater in Nebraska**
- **Assist in developing and financing appropriate infrastructure and facilities for communities and counties that have planned and set priorities for long-term community economic development projects and initiatives**
- **Strengthen technical assistance for community improvement**

Background

The following is a report on the activities the state plans to undertake during the next year to target non-housing community development problems in the four funding categories through which DED competitively allocates CDBG funds. Resources must be targeted to serious problems affecting the local economic base, public health, welfare, or safety. DED structures its community development CDBG allocations around four funding categories: water/wastewater, public works, tourism development, and planning. The types of projects funded, and the priorities and objectives for each category are listed in the state's Consolidated Plan. Lastly, the state has an obligation to more effectively coordinate its delivery system for community development programs, services, and funding.

For example, many rural Nebraska communities simply do not have facilities, such as community buildings, care centers, fire protection, and medical clinics. Because they are lacking in one or more of these facilities, the community is often in jeopardy of losing its economic base to nearby communities that can offer these services. Other communities may have these facilities, but have outgrown them, or the facilities have become economically obsolete. Another serious problem plaguing many rural communities involves water and sewer infrastructure, communities that lack public water/sewer systems or have deteriorating facilities. Other communities have outgrown their water and wastewater systems. Some systems no longer meet the requirements set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency. Other equally serious problems with infrastructure exist. Communities also need to support their community attraction facilities that strengthen the economic development base.

State community development resources also must be directed toward problems that are resolvable.

- Applicants must show that work on their projects can be started promptly.
- Community development problems are serious compared with other problems identified in all the applications received.
- Projects will resolve community development problems in a reasonable period of time.

The CDBG Advisory Committee and the Economic Development Commission

CDBG strategies have resulted from more than 15 years of consultation with local communities and public comment. The selection criteria and priorities outlined in the CDBG section of this Action Plan also were developed with advice and consent of the CDBG Advisory Committee and the Nebraska Economic Development Commission. Priorities and strategies support the state's anti-poverty strategy of creating jobs with livable wages, and are directed toward both workers and employers. The efforts for workers include assuring that education, job training, and skill development programs adequately prepare them for the jobs that are available. The business efforts include providing economic assistance, tax credits, and loans that attract new firms; and retaining/expanding existing ones, especially businesses that hire low- and very low-income people.

Set up by state statute, the Nebraska Economic Development Commission provides leadership and advice to DED to strengthen Nebraska's position in the global economy. The commission consists of nine voting members (three each from Nebraska's three congressional districts) and the DED director (a non-voting member).

The CDBG Advisory Committee, created in 1986, regularly consults with DED regarding the state's CDBG Program. The committee helps determine community development objectives, state priorities, and fund distribution guidelines. Upon recommendation of DED, the Nebraska Economic Development Commission appoints committee members.

Actions for the 2004 Program Year

The four community development strategies listed above each have objectives and measurements that were planned by the state for the 2004 program year. The objectives and performance measurements that were planned for the three economic development strategies are listed below along with a progress report detailing the headway made under each performance measurement during the 2004 program year. The following rating system is used to evaluate the measurements that were accomplished during the program year:

A → Activity Exceeded Measurement

P → Performance Satisfied Measurement

R → Reasonable Progress Made

N → No Progress Made

■ Strategy One

Assist communities and counties with strategic planning that results in long-term development investments.

Objective #1: Invest CDBG funds in local and regional studies and plans that result in quality projects.

Performance Measurement: Up to \$545,874 of the 2004 annual CDBG allocation will be awarded for local and regional plans. The state will invest in 15 local and regional projects by June 30, 2005, that impact the implementation of economic development, community development and housing projects.

A Progress Report: *During the 2004 program year, the state awarded \$533,580 in CDBG funds to 28 local governments for the development and implementation of local and regional plans. These projects will impact economic development, community development and housing projects.*

Objective #2: Invest CDBG funds in technical assistance and training to local government officials for building capacity in the management and implementation of community planning.

Performance Measurement: up to \$141,720 of the 2004 CDBG funds will be allocated to these activities. The number of training sessions offered and attendees will be tracked annually for program benefit. The state will provide technical assistance to local planning officials. This assistance will include the continuation of Internet based training implemented by June 30, 2005. The state will provide four technical assistance workshops during the program year to local grant administrators. The state also will further establish on-line tools for web site access and document submission and reporting by June 30, 2005.

A Progress Report: *During the 2004 program year, the Department independently continued implementation of the CDBG Certified Administrators Program. The Department contracted with the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) to provide training on planning issues for local officials statewide. The Department in collaboration with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the University Division of Continuing Studies has developed a distance-learning project built on the Planning Commission Fundamentals Handbook. The continued development of an on-line training through a web-site access is under construction.*

The Department conducted five trainings attended by 148 registrants from 122 municipalities and/or organizations for CDBG administration. Training sessions included the all-inclusive CDBG certification and re-certification, environmental, construction/labor standards, and preparation for monitoring. All awarded municipalities were required to send a local representative to a one-day training to review the local municipalities responsibility regarding the CDBG award.

The Nebraska Chapter APA in collaboration with the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association and the Nebraska Lied Main Street Program conducted a 3-day statewide institute on land use management issues attended by more than 200 persons. Those in

attendance represented several communities preparing and implementing planning projects funded through CDBG Program. The University of Nebraska Division of Continuing Studies demonstrated the Nebraska Planning Handbook site to those in attendance. The handbook is now available at: <http://neplanning.unl.edu>. The online capabilities of the handbook allow for it to be continually updated and maintained.

Objective #3: Promote and implement NCIP to assist and recognize efforts in community organizing, leadership development and project implementation.

Performance Measurement: Approximately 70 communities will participate in the 2004 Nebraska Community Improvement Program.

A ***Progress Report:** Eighty communities participated in the 2004 Nebraska Community Improvement Program. Seventy- three awards were presented to more than 420 individuals at a statewide recognition event.*

Objective #4: Encourage private sector involvement in the Community Development Assistance Act.

Performance Measurement: Track information to ensure that 100% of the CDAA tax credits allocated are used or claimed.

A ***Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year, DED awarded \$250,000 in CDAA tax credits. A total of 11 projects were implemented utilizing CDAA tax credits.*

■ Strategy Two

Improve the quality of water and wastewater in Nebraska.

Objective #1: Use a coordinated application process to fund priority projects that leverage other available financial resources and are ready to promptly start and complete construction within 24 months. The coordinated application process is done between the following federal and state agencies: U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Performance Measurement: Approximately 50 pre-applications will be reviewed and up to eight projects will be funded by CDBG. It is estimated that approximately \$1.9 million in CDBG funds will be invested in these water/wastewater projects leveraging \$2 million in other public and private funds. If deemed necessary, appropriate changes will be made to the coordinated application process.

A ***Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year the multi-agency Water Wastewater Advisory Committee reviewed 42 pre-applications. Thirteen local governments were invited to submit CDBG applications and were received and awarded during the year totaling \$2,153,125 in CDBG funds and leveraged \$3,364,875 in other public and private funds.*

■ Strategy Three

Assist in developing and financing appropriate infrastructure for communities and counties that have planned and set priorities for long-term community economic development projects and initiatives.

Objective #1: Invest CDBG funds in quality projects that are identified in a formal community plan; compliment or support related community investments; leverage maximum private and/or other investment; have reasonable plans for long-term operation and maintenance; and are ready to start and complete construction within 24 months.

Performance Measurement: Approximately eight projects will be funded annually leveraging up to \$3.2 million in other public and private funds.

***A Progress Report:** Thirteen public works projects were awarded totaling \$3,464,400 in CDBG funds and leveraging \$4,635,850 in other public and private funds.*

Objective #2: Evaluate the application, review, ranking, and selection process and make necessary changes for improvement.

Performance Measurement: Continue to improve DED's website capabilities for application guidelines and forms. Determine the capacity of local governments to transmit applications electronically. Continue to improve application process through June 30, 2005.

***P Progress Report:** During the 2004 program year, Program administration forms and applications were available on the CRD website. Electronic forms and application transmittal continues to be under investigation.*

■ Strategy Four

Strengthen technical assistance for community improvement.

Objective #1: Identify and develop resources to assist communities in community organizing, leadership development, funding sources and project implementation.

Performance Measurement: Maintain partnerships with other funding providers to help leverage dollars for community projects. Develop or update a Project Networking Guide and a Foundation Resource Directory. Investigate the feasibility of an interactive web site and community level databases and issue a report by June 30, 2004. Provide up to 1% of annual CDBG allocation for training opportunities that will build capacity at the local level. Support NCIP, Certification Workshops and Modules, Community Planning Training, Technical Assistance Application Workshops, Nebraska Clerks School, Environmental and Lead-based Paint Training.

***A Progress Report:** The Project Networking Guide was developed and placed on the NCIP website and distributed to communities statewide via mail and handouts at meetings. The Foundation Resource Directory and Nebraska Resource Directories were updated and placed on the CRD Website as well as distributed to communities at regional workshops, meetings and conferences. In addition, CDBG projects were researched for success*

stories. CDBG success stories continue to be added to the CRD website as a resource for local governments and other community organizations.

Department staff conducted five (5) technical assistance application workshops during the 2004 program year. The workshops were conducted in Lincoln, Hastings, Norfolk, North Platte, and Bridgeport.

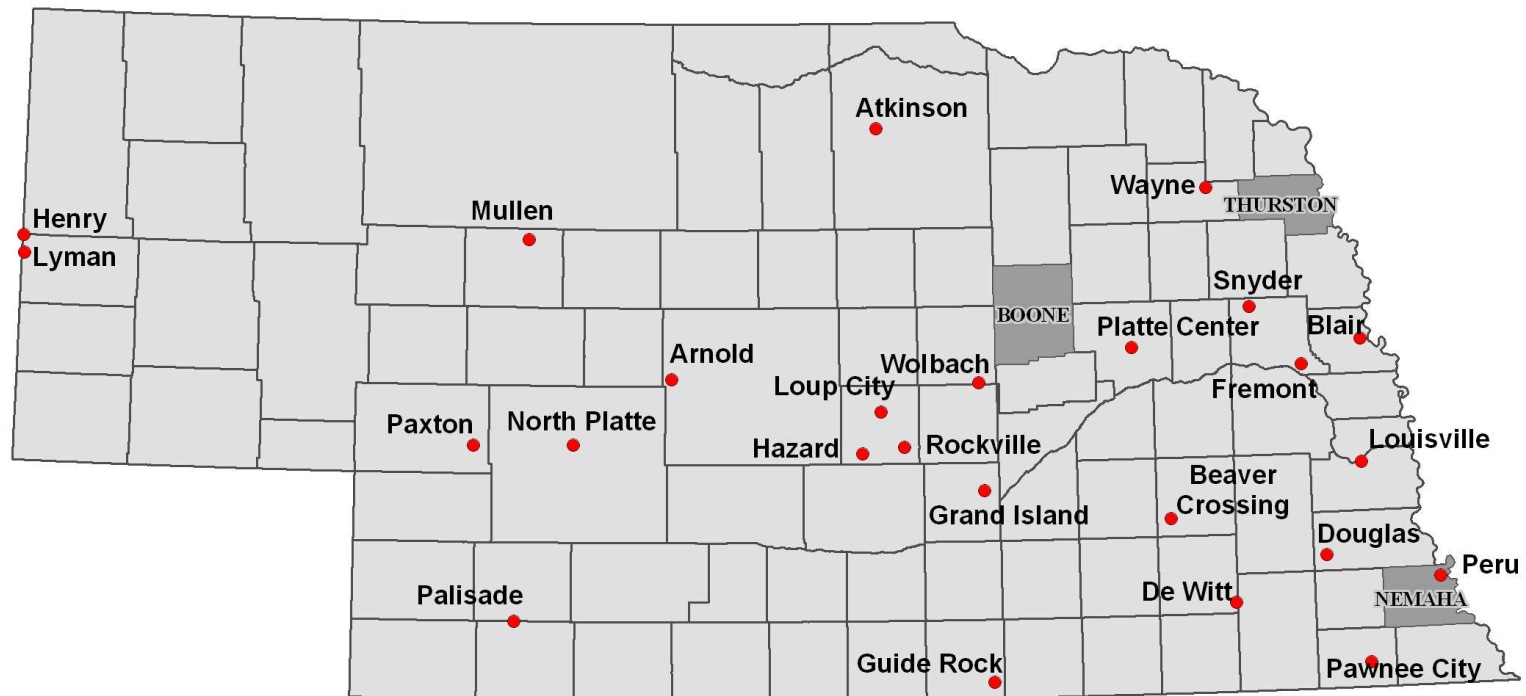
The Department contracted with the Nebraska Municipal Clerks Academy to provide assistance to conduct the Nebraska Municipal Clerks Institute. Clerks from local governments who apply for, receive, and administer CDBG program funds were in attendance.

**Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program
2004 Awards Planning Category**

Project Number	Applicant	Project Activities	Amount Awarded
04PP001	Guide Rock	Community needs assessment surveys multi-community	\$25,000
04PP002	Hazard	Drainage study	\$11,250
04PP003	Beaver Crossing	Comprehensive plan, zoning & subdivision regs	\$7,200
04PP004	DeWitt	Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Regulations	\$10,200
04PP005	Louisville	Louisville Drainage Improvement Study	\$11,000
04PP007	Atkinson	Capacity Building for Community Economic Development	\$25,000
04PP008	Fremont	Housing Market Study for LMI Households	\$12,500
04PP009	Rockville	Drainage System Study	\$5,200
04PP010	Platte Center	Comprehensive plan & zoning ordinance	\$12,000
04PP011	Palisade	Water/wastewater systems study (12 communities)	\$40,000
04PP012	Snyder	Comprehensive Plan & Zone Regulation	\$11,250
04PP013	Boone County	Boone Co Comprehensive Economic Dev Strategy	\$20,100
04PP014	Thurston Co	Application	\$25,000
04PP017	Loup City	Economic Development Strategic Plan	\$21,750
04PP018	Blair	Storm Sewer Collection Study	\$25,000
04PP019	Wolbach	Drainage Study	\$3,300
04PP020	Henry	Comprehensive Plan	\$12,500
04PP021	Arnold	Sewer Collection System Study	\$25,000
04PP022	Pawnee City	Comprehensive Plan & Housing Study	\$25,000
04PP023	Wayne	Comprehensive Plan	\$21,000
04PP024	North Platte	Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan	\$20,750
04PP025	Nemaha County	Housing Market Study	\$16,000
04PP026	Peru	CBD Feasibility Study	\$24,000
04PP027	Douglas	Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Regulations	\$8,550
04PP028	Grand Island	Homeless Housing Needs Study	\$39,530
04PP112	Lyman	Community assessment network guide	\$25,000
04PP115	Mullen	Economic strategies entrepreneur development	\$25,500
04PP118	Paxton	Strategic plan youth retention/labor market	\$25,000
		TOTAL CDBG AWARDED	\$533,580

2004 CDBG Planning Awards

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program

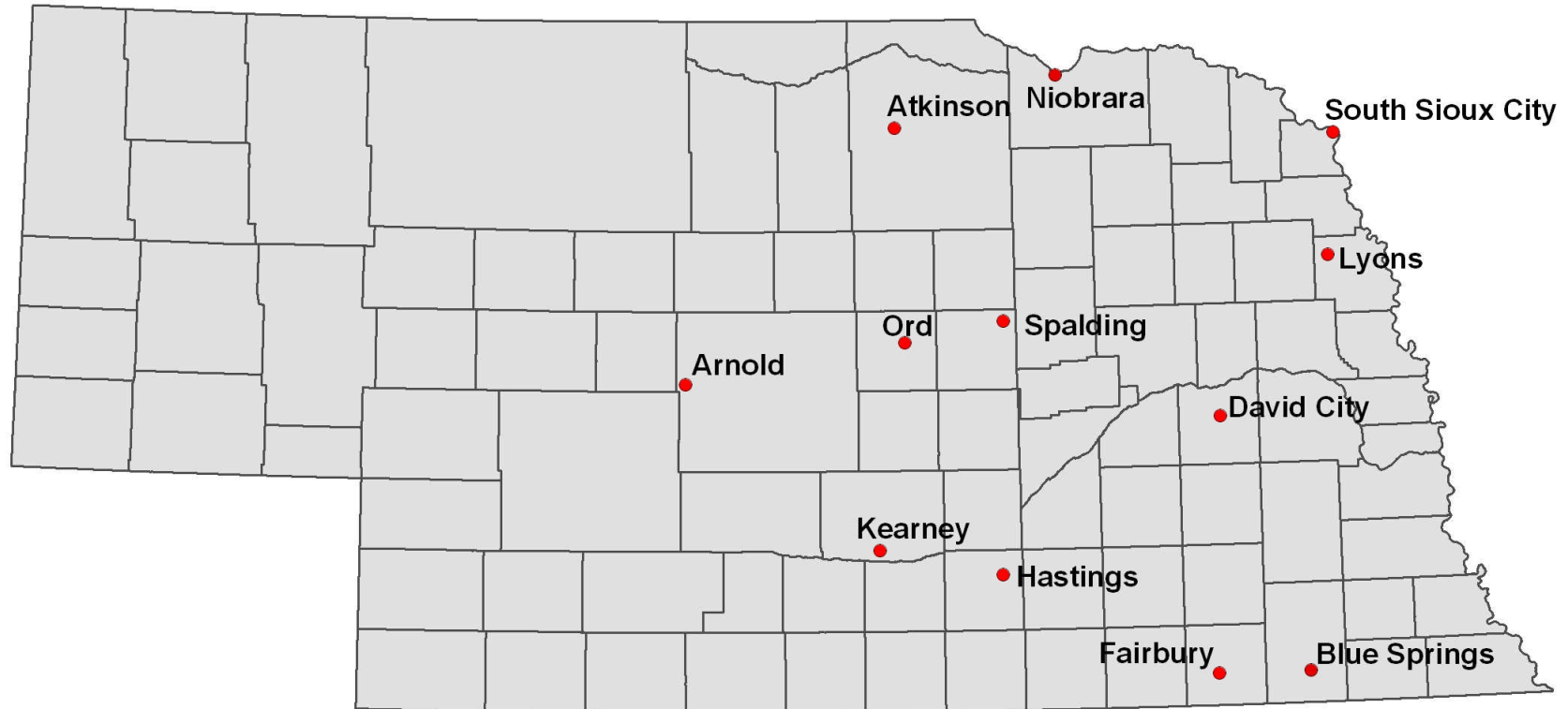


**Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program
2004 Awards Public Works Category**

Project Number	Applicant	Project Activities	Awarded Amount
04PW001	Ord	Street Improvements	\$183,000
04PW003	South Sioux City	Streets Water Sewer	\$306,800
04PW005	South Sioux City	Wastewater System Improvements	\$122,300
04PW006	Hastings	Day Care Center	\$350,000
04PW007	Atkinson	Public Library	\$250,000
04PW008	Fairbury	Streets Water CBD	\$350,000
04PW009	Kearney	Day Care Center	\$350,000
04PW018	Arnold	Community Center	\$250,000
04PW019	David City	Street Improvements	\$350,000
04PW025	Lyons	Public Library	\$250,000
04PW026	Spalding	Fire Station	\$202,300
04PW029	Blue Springs	Street Improvements	\$250,000
04PW032	Niobrara	Fire Station	\$250,000
		TOTAL CDBG AWARDED	\$3,464,400

2004 CDBG Public Works Awards

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program

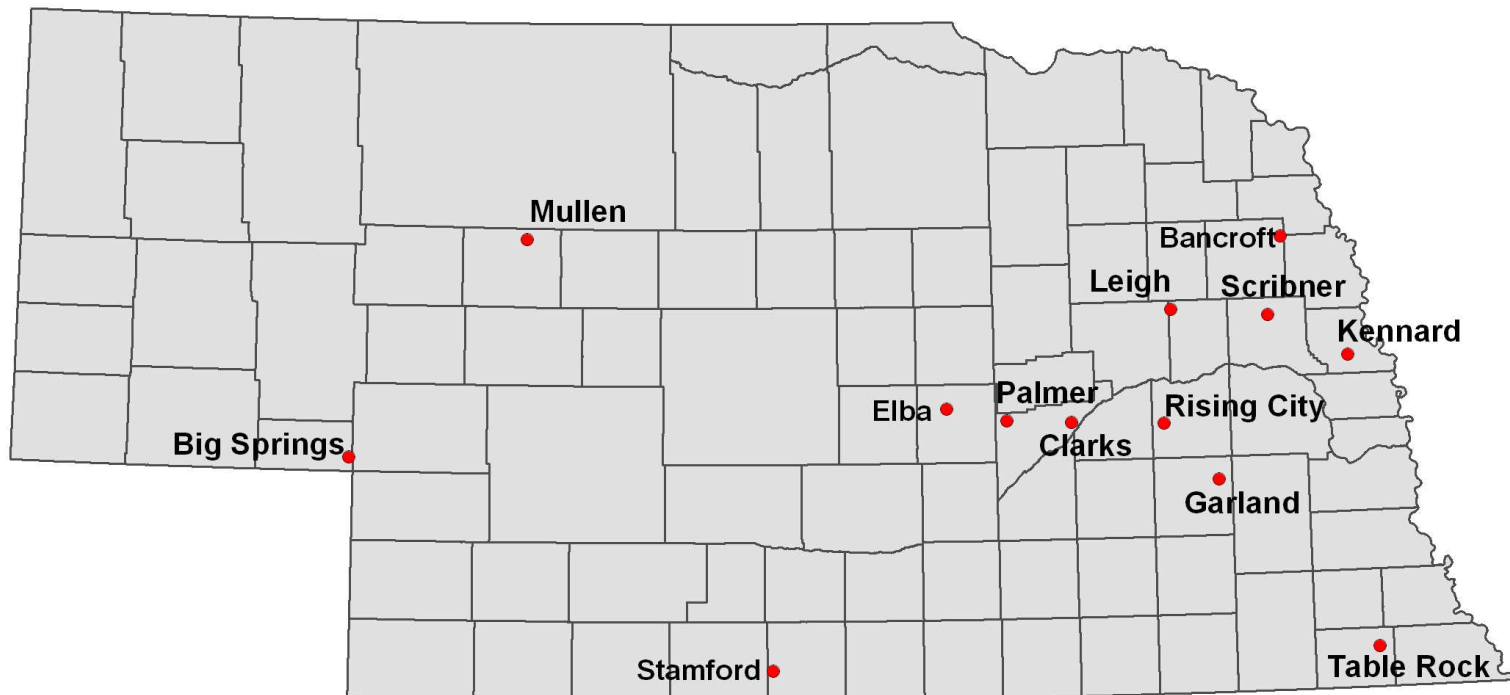


**Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program
2004 Awards Water / Wastewater Category**

Project Number	Applicant	Project Activities	Amount Awarded
04WW001	Scribner	Wastewater Improvements	\$96,600
04WW002	Kennard	Sanitary Sewer System Study	\$18,300
04WW003	Leigh	Sanitary Sewer System Study	\$17,600
04WW004	Mullen	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$15,000
04WW005	Table Rock	Water/Sewer Planning	\$5,625
04WW006	Clarks	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
04WW007	Palmer	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
04WW008	Big Springs	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
04WW009	Garland	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
04WW010	Rising City	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
04WW011	Stamford	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
04WW012	Bancroft	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
04WW013	Elba	Water/Sewer Improvements	\$250,000
		TOTAL CDBG AWARDED	\$2,153,125

2004 CDBG Water / Wastewater Awards

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program

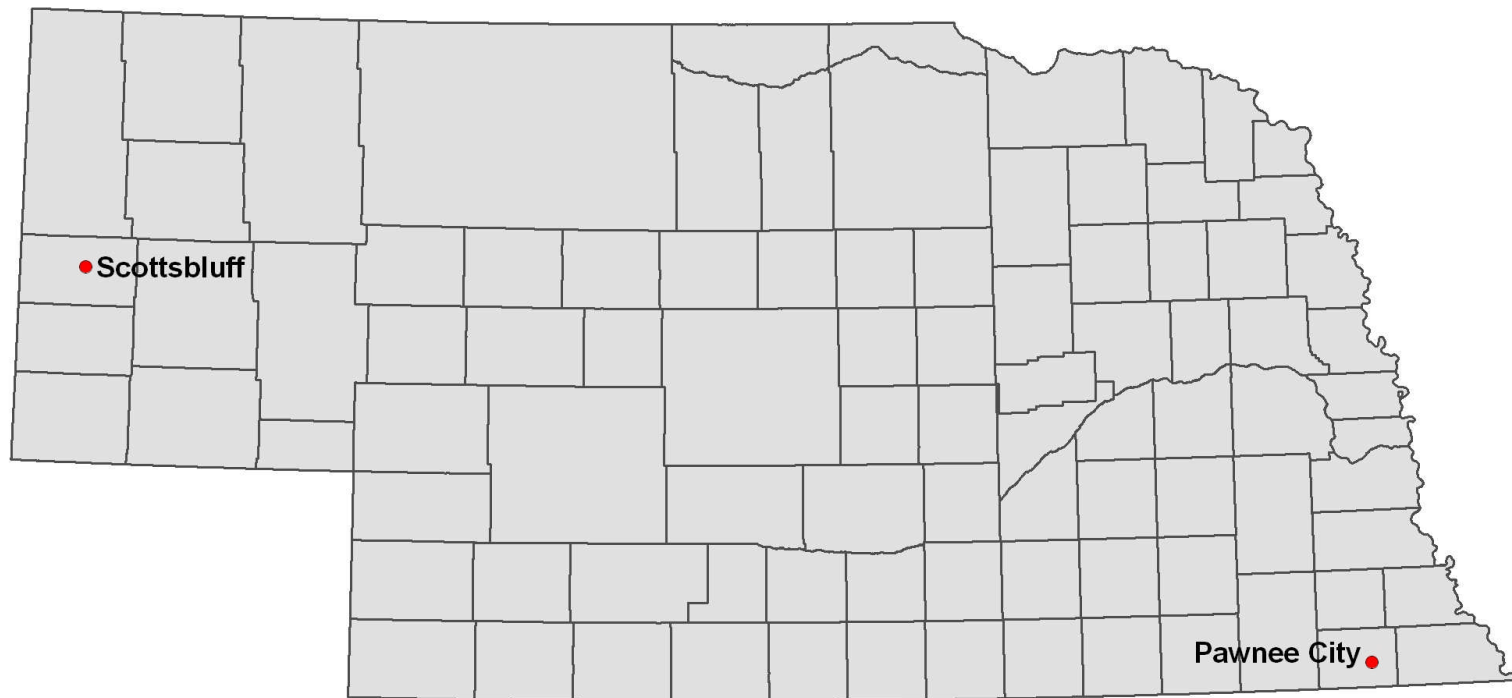


**Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program
2004 Awards Tourism Development Category**

Project Number	Applicant	Project Activities	Amount Awarded
04TD002	Scottsbluff	Historic Bldg Renovation for Cultural Center	\$150,000
04TD005	Pawnee City	Stonebridge Vineyard Visitor/Event Center	\$113,000
		TOTAL CDBG AWARDED	\$263,000

2004 CDBG Tourism Development Awards

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program



Section Four: Economic Development

*Develop economic opportunities by keeping
Nebraska's industries, people and places competitive.*

Strategies, Objectives & Measurements

The three (3) five-year strategies developed to meet this priority are:

- Keep Nebraska's Industries Competitive
- Keep Nebraska's Places Competitive
- Keep Nebraska's People Competitive

Background

The primary objective of this priority is to develop viable communities and counties by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons. The state CDBG objective of the Economic Development category is to support businesses that expand the state's economic base and create quality jobs for persons in the low-and moderate-income levels.

The following is a report on the activities the state plans to undertake during the next year to target economic development activities for CDBG funds. The CDBG allocations for economic development are structured around economic and business development. Resources must be addressed to serious problems affecting the local economic base. These include loss of population in 70 of 93 counties and inequitable distribution of income in the metro and non-metro areas.

The Economic Development Commission and CDBG Advisory Committee

CDBG strategies result from more than 15 years of consultation with local communities and public comment. The selection criteria and priorities outlined in the Economic Development section of this Action Plan also were developed with advice of the Nebraska Economic Development Commission, as well as the CDBG Program Advisory Committee. Priorities and strategies support the state's anti-poverty strategy of creating jobs with livable wages, and are directed toward both workers and employers. The efforts for workers include assuring that education, job training, and skill development programs adequately prepare them for the jobs that are available. The business efforts include providing economic assistance, tax credits, and loans that attract new firms; retain/expand existing firms - especially businesses that hire low and moderate income people; and assistance for new businesses and entrepreneurs.

Set up by state statute, the Nebraska Economic Development Commission provides leadership and advice to DED to strengthen Nebraska's position in the global economy. The Commission consists of nine voting members (three each from Nebraska's three congressional districts) and the DED director (as non-voting member).

The CDBG Program Advisory Committee, created in 1986, regularly consults with DED regarding the state's CDBG Program. The committee helps determine community development objectives, state priorities, and fund distribution guidelines. The Nebraska Economic Development Commission upon recommendation of DED appoints committee members.

Actions for the 2004 Program Year

The three economic development strategies listed above each have objectives and measurements that were planned by the state for the 2004 program year. The objectives and performance measurements that were planned for the three economic development strategies are listed below along with a progress report detailing the headway made under each performance measurement during the 2004 program year. The following rating system is used to evaluate the measurements that were accomplished during the program year:

A → Activity Exceeded Measurement

P → Performance Satisfied Measurement

R → Reasonable Progress Made

N → No Progress Made

■ **Strategy One**

Keep Nebraska's Industries Competitive

Objective #1: Through a competitive application process, fund quality economic development projects that support manufacturing, the service sector, research and development, warehousing and distribution, tourist attractions and transportation.

Performance Measurement: The state will invest in at least fifteen communities by June 30, 2005 that assist for-profit businesses in providing quality jobs for low and moderate income persons.

A ***Progress Report:** During the program year July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005, 17 communities were awarded \$7,488,047 to assist for-profit businesses in providing quality jobs for low and moderate income persons.*

■ **Strategy Two**

Keep Nebraska's Places Competitive

Objective #1: Through a competitive application process, fund quality economic development projects that benefit businesses. Businesses will use funds to invest in equipment, working capital and facilities to create or retain jobs.

Performance Measurement: The state will fund economic development projects by June 30, 2005 that create or retain 400 jobs of which at least 51% would benefit low and moderate-income persons.

A ***Progress Report:** During the program year July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005, 22 economic development projects were awarded CDBG funds totaling \$7,895,047, which leveraged an additional \$154,062,925. 679 jobs were created or retained, of which 358 benefited low and moderate-income persons.*

■ **Strategy Three**
Keep Nebraska's People Competitive

Objective #1: Through the CDBG application process, fund quality economic development projects that support entrepreneurial opportunities for low and moderate-income persons.

Performance Measurement: The state will invest in a statewide micro-enterprise project that provides technical assistance, business plan development assistance, entrepreneurial management training, and financing to low and moderate-income persons. At least 200 low and moderate-income persons will receive assistance.

A ***Progress Report:** During the program year July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005, 493 clients received entrepreneurial training in 39 training sessions through the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP). Of those trained, 81 (16.4%) were minorities and 277 (56.2%) were women. Business counseling was provided to 310 business owners. Of those receiving training 117 (38%) were male, 175 (56%) were female and 17 (5%) were male/female 50/50 split ownership.*

REAP closed 50 loans with 29 of those to LMI persons (58%). Reap lending amounted to 469,650 leveraging an additional 1,506,235 in partner lending.

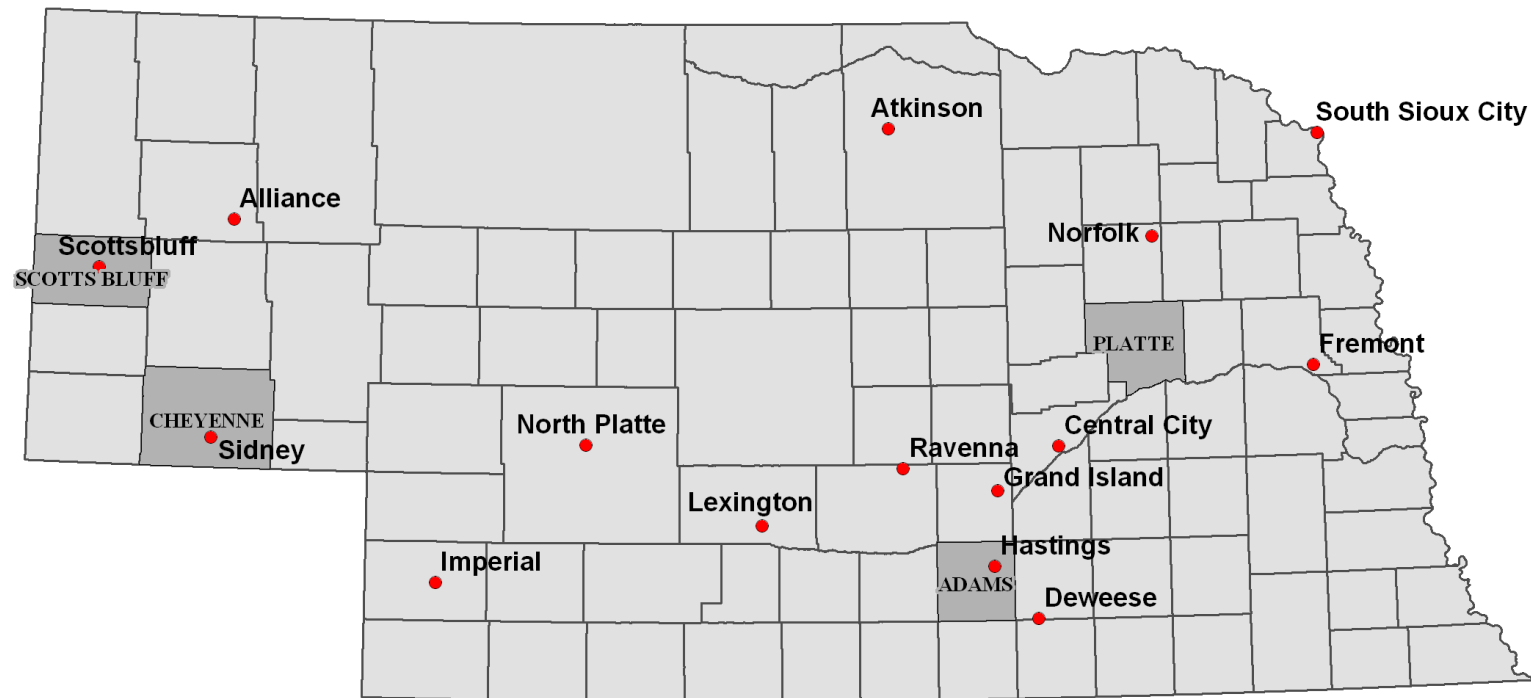
The State of Nebraska awarded a grant of \$400,000 to Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff, NE for renovation of their Center for Business and Individual Training. This renovation is designed to provide microenterprise assistance for 200 individuals each year. The Center is scheduled for completion in September of 2005.

**Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program
2004 Awards
Economic Development Category**

Project Number	Applicant	Benefitting Business	Amount Awarded
02-ED-033	Ravenna	Nordic Biofuels of Ravenna, LLC	\$ 507,000.00
02-ED-042	Hastings	Premium Protein Products, LLC	\$ 405,000.00
03-ED-010	Scottsbluff	Western Neb Comm College	\$ 407,000.00
03-ED-017	North Platte	Advantage Direct Communications, Inc.	\$ 505,000.00
03-ED-018	Sidney	Cabela's Ventures, Inc.	\$ 255,000.00
04-ED-001	Alliance	Vitalix, Inc.	\$ 165,000.00
04-ED-002	Alliance	Perrin Manufacturing, Inc.	\$ 185,000.00
04-ED-003	Grand Island	Standard Iron, Inc.	\$ 429,947.00
04-ED-005	Fremont	Fremont Contract Carriers	\$ 266,100.00
04-ED-006	Fremont	R-K Aerials, LLC	\$ 305,000.00
04-ED-007	Scotts Bluff Co	Performark, Inc.	\$ 505,000.00
04-ED-008	Lexington	Orthman Manufacturing	\$ 500,000.00
04-ED-009	Platte Co	Becton-Dickinson(infrastructure)	\$ 355,000.00
04-ED-010	Atkinson	Osborne Steel & Supply Co., Inc.	\$ 405,000.00
04-ED-012	Adams Co	BJN Manufacturing, LLC	\$ 129,000.00
04-ED-013	Cheyenne Co	Commercial Resins Co., Inc.	\$ 254,000.00
04-ED-015	Central City	Colorado Aspen Home Builders, Inc.	\$ 506,000.00
04-ED-017	Deweese	Deweese Products, Inc.	\$ 255,000.00
04-ED-019	Imperial	Allo Communications	\$ 293,000.00
04-ED-020	South Sioux City	Lite-Form Technologies, LLC	\$ 253,000.00
04-ED-023	Fremont	Fremont Beef Company	\$ 505,000.00
04-ED-031	Norfolk	MP Global Products, LLC	\$ 505,000.00

2004 CDBG Economic Development Awards

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community Development Block Grant Program



Section Five:
HOME PROGRAM REPORT

HOME Program Performance Report

Analysis of Consolidated Plan HOME Strategies

HOME funds were distributed according to the different categories identified on pages 3-2 to 3-7 of the State of Nebraska 2004 approved Consolidated Annual Action Plan.

Results of On-Site Inspections of Affordable Rental Housing

Forty-five (45) inspections of affordable rental housing projects were conducted during the 2004 program year. All projects met minimum property standards at the time of the visit.

The annual rent and income reporting revealed that seventy-one (71) rental projects met compliance with occupancy requirements. Department staff is working towards compliance with the other 7 rental projects. Additional training and on-site visits are planned.

Affirmative Marketing and Minority Outreach

We are continuing to pursue information and assistance in this area. DED Affordable Housing Program fund recipient program guidelines are reviewed to provide assistance on affirmative marketing strategies. All DED designated CHDOs are required to have an affirmative marketing plan.

The outreach effort for Minority, Women and Disabled Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE/DBE) includes a requirement to solicit responses to Requests for Proposals and bids from such entities by state recipients as part of their procurement process. A state recipient must have an approved procurement process and monitoring is done by staff to insure that the recipient is following their approved process.

**COPIES OF THE HOME PERFORMANCE REPORT AND
HOME MATCH REPORT ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
BY CONTACTING JEN BOLEN AT NDED.**

Section Six:

Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program Overview – Emergency Shelter Grant Program and Nebraska Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund

Homeless

Funding Category

A. Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program – State Objective

The objective of the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) is to assist in the immediate alleviation of homelessness by Nebraska citizens using the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) funds and the Nebraska Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF). The state's HSATF provides a match of approximately \$2.55 for every ESGP dollar.

Because homelessness encompasses a wide range of conditions, the State strongly supports a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of people who are homeless. It is widely recognized that homelessness is not due to just a lack of shelter; it also involves a variety of unmet needs and underlying economic, physical, and social challenges. To encourage a broad-base planning approach, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) initiated the "Continuum of Care" process in 1994. The process promotes a coordinated, strategic planning approach for programs that assist families and individuals who are homeless and near homeless. This approach is supported as an effective community and regional-based process that provides a comprehensive and coordinated housing and service delivery system. Nebraska supports agencies and programs that provide HUD's fundamental components of Continuum of Care systems, which are:

- Outreach, intake, and assessments to (1) identify an individual's or family's service and housing needs and (2) link them to appropriate housing and/or service resources.
- Emergency shelter and safe, decent alternatives to the streets.
- Transitional housing with supportive services to help people develop the skills necessary for permanent housing.
- Permanent housing and permanent supportive housing.

In order to ensure services are not duplicated, agencies and organizations must be active participants in their regional Continuums of Care to receive NHAP funding. If a service or housing provider is not currently involved in a regional Continuum of Care, they may contact Jean Chicoine at jean.chicoine@hss.ne.gov or (402) 471-9644 to identify a primary contact person in the area. The seven Nebraska Continuum of Care planning regions and counties are shown in Table I.

Table I: Continuum of Care Regions and Counties

Region #	Region Name	Counties Represented
1	Panhandle	Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel
2	North Central	Cherry, Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, Holt, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Boone, Platte, Colfax, Custer, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, Howard, Nance, Hall, Merrick, Hamilton
3	Southwest	Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Dawson, Buffalo, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Dundy, Hitchcock, Redwillow, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin

Region #	Region Name	Counties Represented
4	Southeast	Polk, Butler, Saunders, Sarpy, York, Seward, Lancaster [Lincoln excluded], Cass, Otoe, Fillmore, Saline, Adams, Clay, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson
5	Northeast	Northeast: Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Thurston, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Dodge, Washington, Douglas [Omaha excluded])
6	Lincoln	Lincoln
7	Omaha	Omaha

Note: See map of Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program Regional Continuums of Care at end of section.

B. Grantee and Project Profile

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) through the Office of Economic and Family Support awards funds to eligible nonprofit 501 (c) (3) agencies and organizations. Non-profits that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and supportive services to people who are homeless and at-risk of becoming homeless are recipients of the grant funds. The Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) projects are designed to be the first step in the continuum of assistance to prevent homelessness and to enable homeless individuals and families to move toward independent living (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Program Desk Guide). The goal of homeless programs in the State of Nebraska is to provide services to people who are homeless and near homeless to help them reach self-sufficiency.

The Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) distributes funds to agencies across the state through a competitive grant process. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is announced with public notices. An RFP/application packet is mailed to agencies and organizations serving people who are homeless and near homeless. The RFP and application are also available on the HHSS/NHAP Web site: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/fia/nhap/nhapindex.htm>.

Successful proposals reflect the purpose of the NHAP, as stated in the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund statute and McKinney-Vento regulations for ESG funds. The Nebraska Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund statute states that programs must address the needs of people who are homeless and near homeless in Nebraska by:

- assisting in the alleviation of homelessness;
- providing temporary and/or permanent shelters for persons who are homeless;
- addressing needs of migrant farm workers;
- encouraging the development of projects that link housing assistance programs with efforts to promote self-sufficiency.

Additionally, high priority is given to funding programs that reflect the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care process by addressing any or all of the following:

- Strategies that promote self-sufficiency (e.g. case management, outreach, development of independent living skills, counseling services, basic skills instruction, high school completion) for persons who are homeless or near homeless.
- Strategies that address a Continuum of Care approach to providing shelter and service through collaboration of services with other agencies.

- Expansion of operations, services, and programs that fill an identified gap in the regional Continuum of Care. This includes the rehabilitation of an existing building for emergency shelter and/or transitional program facility.
- Operations, services, and programs that, if they were discontinued, would create a substantial, recognizable gap in the regional/local continuum of care.
- Prevention activities that are a long-term solution to preventing homelessness in the region.

Applicants also sign a certification that they will be active participants in regional and sub region Continuums of Care and participate in an HMIS data collection process.

C: Distribution of NHAP Funds

An allocation formula is used in distributing NHAP grant funds. The allocation formula helps ensure an equitable distribution of funds throughout the entire state. The formula, developed with input from the NHAP Advisory Committee, is based on a \$50,000 base, with the remaining allocation divided equally between population, poverty, and pro rata figures for each region. The formula is recalculated each year based on updated data made available through the Center for Public Affairs at the University of Nebraska – Omaha.

The distribution of funds reflects needs within a continuum as well as programmatic (i.e. activity specific) quality projects. The intent of the award is to supplement a service provider's budget. Organizations are encouraged to seek other sources of funding and collaborate and coordinate programs and services with other organizations in order to optimize the use of NHAP funds.

Funds are provided through the NHAP competitive grant process. The 2004 program year was the first year of a pilot for a two-year funding cycle. For the 2005-2006 grant cycle, a Request for *Renewal* Proposals and Application was issued December 6, 2004 with a due date of February 18, 2005. The pilot two-year funding cycle was deemed a success. Both grantees and NHAP staff and administration believe the timesaving was a great benefit. The budget negotiation phase is required for both first year and renewal year funding. The renewal process requires a new contract for the second year ensuring grantee accountability.

Renewal proposals for the 2005-2006 grant cycle were received by HHS and reviewed and scored by an internal review team. Team members reviewed and individually scored the proposals, met in a team review session and discussed each proposal, reviewed past performance measures (data, involvement in continuums, draw downs and rate of draw downs), last year awards by region and grantee, and reviewed the region allocation for the current grant year. The review team ranked applications by region using specific criteria and a point system as shown in Table II. Reviewers used a further point breakdown for items within each criterion. The point breakdown form is shown in Attachment A. A numerical weight, with a maximum total of 100 points, was assigned to each application. Individual reviewer scores provided a common point of discussion for the review process. The scoring system was included in the RFP issued to applicants. Scoring remained the same by Section and Criteria for first year and renewal year applications.

TABLE II: Scoring Criteria and Point System

Section	Criteria	Points
I. Organization, Programs, Services	History of the organization's development, mission, focus of the organization's programs and services; adequacy of staffing, experience and competence of staff; demonstrated ability of project management. Relevant information on any subcontractor.	20

Section	Criteria	Points
II. Program Funding Request	Description of how the proposed program addresses client need(s). Client need documented by the number of persons housed per night, the number of meals provided, or other verifiable units of service provided by the applicant. Organization exhibits a record of accurate tracking of needs and services.	25
III. Program Data	Requested data for type of project, services, population(s) served, characteristics of populations served, and racial/ethnic characteristics.	8
IV. Budget Information	Budget and audit reflect use of sound fiscal policy. Budget shows diversified budget funding sources. Budget and budget narrative provides a clear understanding of the financial aspect of the project.	7
V. Effectiveness Measures	Description of client needs, service(s) that meet needs, and how each is evaluated for effectiveness. Description of the method by which outcomes will be measured.	15
VI. Continuum of Care Involvement	Evidence throughout the application of coordination of services or providers implementing a continuum of care approach. Evidence that ongoing services are essential to the Regional/Local Continuum of Care and expanded services will fill a gap identified in the Regional/Local Continuum of Care.	25

For the 2005-2006 NHAP grant process (December 6, 2004-June 30, 2005), applicants were considered for renewal funding based on availability of funds, documentation of past performance, demonstrated need for second year funding, active participation in regional continuums, and commitment to implementation of the Homeless Management Inventory System (HMIS) per HUD's notice published in the Federal Register on July 30, 2004.

All grantees received renewal funding for Regions 1 through 6 for the upcoming program year of 2005-2006. This was Lincoln's (Region 6) first year in the state application process. Renewal amounts changed based on recalculation of the funding formula and grantee performance. Omaha (Region 7) submitted recommendations for funding; recommendations were accepted as submitted.

D. 2004 Program Year Awards

During the July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 program year, 70 programs of grantees statewide provided services to people who were homeless and near homeless. Grantees in each region conducted outreach activities to people in need. Through the intake process, staff of the various agencies identified an individual's or family's service and housing needs and linked them to appropriate housing and/or service resources. Table III shows distribution of funds for the 2004 grant cycle.

TABLE III: Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program – 2004 Awards

Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program 2004 Awards (ESGP & HSATF)				
Grant #	Applicant Name	2004 ESGP Awards	2004 HSATF Awards	2004 NHAP Awards (TOTAL)
04-NHAP-101	Scotts Bluff County Domestic Violence Task Force -- Scottsbluff	\$6,245	\$13,630	\$19,875
04-NHAP-102	Family Rescue Shelter dba Family Rescue Services -- Chadron	\$17,346	\$37,850	\$55,196
04-NHAP-103	NWNCAC -- Chadron	\$11,385	\$24,845	\$36,230
04-NHAP-104	Panhandle Community Services -- Gering	\$22,812	\$49,778	\$72,590
04-NHAP-105	NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation -- North Platte	0	\$11,000	\$11,000
Region 1	TOTAL	\$57,788	\$126,103	\$183,891

Grant #	Applicant Name	2004 ESGP Awards	2004 HSATF Awards	2004 NHAP Awards (TOTAL)
04-NHAP-201	Center for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors -- Columbus	\$8,135	\$11,590	\$19,725
04-NHAP-202	Bright Horizons: Resources for Survivors -- Norfolk	\$9,363	\$14,247	\$23,610
04-NHAP-203	Crisis Center, Inc. -- Grand Island	\$11,347	\$18,539	\$29,886
04-NHAP-204	NWNCAC -- Chadron	\$2,040	\$2,247	\$3,287
04-NHAP-205	Central Nebraska Community Services, Inc. -- Loup City	\$32,564	\$109,436	\$142,000
04-NHAP-206	Community Humanitarian Resource Center, Inc. -- Grand Island	\$25,445	\$36,600	\$62,045
04-NHAP-207	Cedars Youth Services -- Broken Bow	\$6,576	\$14,424	\$21,000
Region 2	TOTAL	\$94,470	\$207,083	\$301,553

Grant #	Applicant Name	2004 ESGP Awards	2004 HSATF Awards	2004 NHAP Awards (TOTAL)
04-NHAP-301	Residential Assistance to Families in Transition (R.A.F.T.) -- Kearney	0	\$20,000	\$20,000
04-NHAP-302	Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program	\$7,565	\$14,843	\$22,408
04-NHAP-303	Dawson County Parent Child Protective Services, Inc.	\$11,214	\$21,941	\$33,155
04-NHAP-304	Rape/Domestic Abuse Program of North Platte	\$16,430	\$32,222	\$48,652
04-NHAP-305	The Spouse/Sexual Abuse Family Education -- Kearney	\$7,400	\$14,381	\$21,781
04-NHAP-306	Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services -- McCook	\$8,000	\$15,761	\$23,761
04-NHAP-307	Lincoln County Community Services, Inc. -- North Platte	\$18,260	\$34,619	\$52,879
04-NHAP-308	NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation -- North Platte	See 04-NHAP105 Statewide Funding		
04-NHAP-309	Mid-Nebraska Community Action, Inc -- Kearney	\$16,500	\$32,670	\$49,170
04-NHAP-310	Community Service Center, Inc. -- Lexington	\$1,563	\$3,840	\$5,403
Region 3	TOTAL	\$86,932	\$190,277	\$277,209

Grant #	Applicant Name	2004 ESGP Awards	2004 HSATF Awards	2004 NHAP Awards (TOTAL)
04-NHAP-401	Lincoln Action Program, Inc -- Saunders County	\$5,749	\$12,714	\$18,462
04-NHAP-402	Crossroads Center -- Hastings	\$21,703	\$47,497	\$69,200
04-NHAP-403	Spouse Abuse/Sexual Assault Crisis Center -- Hastings	\$5,748	\$12,714	\$18,482
04-NHAP-404	Catholic Social Services - Hastings	\$8,910	\$19,610	\$28,520
04-NHAP-405	Family Service - Bellevue	\$19,114	\$41,807	\$60,921
04-NHAP-406	Project Response, Inc. -- Auburn	\$12,934	\$28,273	\$41,207
04-NHAP-407	Blue Valley Community Action, Inc. -- Fairbury	\$38,372	\$83,943	\$122,315
04-NHAP-408	Mid-Nebraska Community Action, Inc -- Kearney	\$8,192	\$17,933	\$26,125
04-NHAP-409	Southeast Nebraska Community Action -- Humbolt	\$15,808	\$34,880	\$50,688
04-NHAP-410	Genesis Personal Development Center, Inc. -- David City	\$7,188	\$15,891	\$23,077
Region 4	TOTAL	\$143,715	\$315,262	\$458,977

Grant #	Applicant Name	2004 ESGP Awards	2004 HSATF Awards	2004 NHAP Awards (TOTAL)
04-NHAP-502	Crisis Center for Domestic Abuse Sexual Assault -- Fremont	\$32,290	\$71,609	\$103,899
04-NHAP-503	Bright Horizons: Resources for Survivors -- Norfolk	\$14,352	\$30,648	\$45,000
04-NHAP-504	Goldenrod Hills Community Services, Inc. -- Wisner	\$16,743	\$36,511	\$53,254
04-NHAP-505	Haven House Family Service Center -- Wayne	\$40,662	\$90,828	\$131,490
04-NHAP-506	Care Corps Inc -- Fremont	\$15,548	\$33,510	\$49,058
REGION 5	TOTAL	\$119,595	\$263,106	\$382,701

Grant #	Applicant Name	2004 ESGP Awards	2004 HSATF Awards	2004 NHAP Awards (TOTAL)
04-HSATF-601	Cedars Youth Services -- Lincoln	-	\$32,388	\$32,388
04-HSATF-602	Day Watch -- Lincoln	-	\$40,676	\$40,676
04-HSATF-603	Fresh Start -- Lincoln	-	\$29,550	\$29,550
04-HSATF-604	Friendship Home -- Lincoln	-	\$27,989	\$27,989
04-HSATF-605	Houses of Hope -- Lincoln	-	\$20,000	\$20,000
04-HSATF-606	Lincoln Action Program, Inc -- Lincoln	-	\$91,600	\$91,600
04-HSATF-607	People's City Mission -- Lincoln	-	\$20,000	\$20,000
04-HSATF-608	Matt Talbot Kitchen	-	\$35,660	\$35,660
REGION 6	TOTAL	-	\$307,863	\$307,863

Grant #	Applicant Name	2004 ESGP Awards	2004 HSATF Awards	2004 NHAP Awards (TOTAL)
04-HSATF-701	Sienna/Francis House	-	\$6,043	\$6,043
04-HSATF-702	Sienna/Francis -- Rec. Program	-	\$32,230	\$32,230
04-HSATF-703	Cath. Charities-The Women's Shelter -- Omaha	-	\$37,266	\$37,266
04-HSATF-704	CC -- Juan Diego Center	-	\$12,086	\$12,086
04-HSATF-705	CC -- Campus for Hope	-	\$20,144	\$20,144
04-HSATF-706	Sal. Army -- 37 th Street RR Program	-	\$3,928	\$3,928
04-HSATF-707	Sal. Army -- Scattered Site	-	\$23,166	\$23,166
04-HSATF-708	Sal. Army-TCP -- Omaha	-	\$39,281	\$39,281
04-HSATF-709	Sal. Army-Material Asst.	-	\$25,180	\$25,180
04-HSATF-710	Sal. Army -- Harrington Homes	-	\$25,180	\$25,180
04-HSATF-711	Child Saving Institute	-	\$26,691	\$26,691
04-HSATF-712	CSI -- Kids Cottage	-	\$26,691	\$26,691
04-HSATF-713	Stephen Center -- EMG Shelter	-	\$2,669	\$2,669
04-HSATF-714	Stephen Center -- MOBA clinic	-	\$8,233	\$8,233
04-HSATF-715	Stephen Center -- HERO Program	-	\$20,144	\$20,144
04-HSATF-716	Help the Homeless	-	\$4,130	\$4,130
04-HSATF-717	Family Housing Adv. Services	-	\$40,288	\$40,288
04-HSATF-718	Community Alliance	-	\$43,813	\$43,813
04-HSATF-719	New Creations	-	\$50,360	\$50,360
04-HSATF-720	HOPE Medical Outreach	-	\$35,252	\$35,252
04-HSATF-721	Charles Drew Health Center	-	\$18,130	\$18,130
04-HSATF-722	Visiting Nurse Assoc.	-	\$37,146	\$37,146
04-HSATF-723	Campfire	-	\$15,612	\$15,612
04-HSATF-724	YWCA	-	\$7,721	\$7,721
04-HSATF-725	Williams Prepared Place	-	\$12,721	\$12,721
Region 7	Total	-	\$574,105	\$574,105
	Total NHAP Grant Awards	\$502,500	\$1,983,799	\$2,486,299

E. Time Line for Review of Grantees for 2006-2007 Funding:

Date	Activity
December 5, 2005	Grantee program evaluation & budget request issued to applicant.
February 17, 2006	Program evaluation & budget due to HHSS by 5:00 p.m.
February 24, 2006	Any additional information requested due to HHSS by 5:00 p.m.
June 2006	Awards Announced

F. Monitoring

On-site monitoring of grantees began in August 2004. Seven agencies at eight sites were monitored from August of 2004 through June 30th, 2005. The 2004 program year was the first year of a three-year grant-monitoring schedule. All grantees will be monitored on-site over the three-year period. The monitoring instrument was developed based on the publication, *HUD Monitoring: Policies and Procedures for Program Oversight*. Risk assessments conducted prior

to initial scheduling was a determinant in scheduling. Agencies monitored also were a mix of large and small agencies and high and low risk. Desk monitoring of all grantees continued to ensure compliance with regulations.

G. Strategy Four & Objectives

Strategy 4: Support and facilitate an active and effective regional Continuum of Care planning and delivery system focusing on a comprehensive approach to housing and service delivery to people who are homeless and near homeless.

Objective #1: The Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) will assist the advisory committee to the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) in strengthening the organizational structure of the advisory committee and regional and sub region Continuums of Care (CoC). This will be accomplished using appropriate tools, such as developing bylaws or other policies and procedures, participation in the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH) Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Chronic Homelessness, or technical assistance.

Performance Measurement: The proposed outcome is increased participatory involvement in the continuum of care process at the state, regional and sub region levels.

Progress Report: During the 2004 program year, the Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) provided assistance to the advisory committee of the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program, which is the Continuum of Care Committee of the NCHH. The committee accomplished the following activities:

- (1) adopted bylaws and operational procedures for the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness Continuum of Care Committee (advisory committee to the NHAP);
- (2) adopted the NCHH Ad Hoc Committee ten-year plan on ending chronic homelessness;
- (3) adopted guidelines for Regional Continuums of Care;
- (4) developed a brochure about Nebraska's Continuum of Care system to be distributed for educational and membership purposes.

Regional Continuums of Care:

- (5) adopted policies and procedures for regional Continuums of Care on outreach to those not represented in regional CoC planning;
- (6) were represented on a conference planning committee that worked with the Nebraska Housing Developers Association to hold concurrent conferences on housing and homelessness to raise awareness about housing and homelessness issues. Collaboration included shared access by conference attendees to workshop and plenary sessions.

NHAP staff:

- (7) Held a conference call for designees of each region to discuss Point-in-Time count methodology. Each region reviewed their methodology. A summary of the HUD guidelines for sheltered and unsheltered point in time counts was reviewed and discussed.
- (8) Provided two technical assistance strategic planning sessions to the North Central Continuum of Care. This process will continue in the new program year.
- (9) Developed a housing survey that was distributed to public housing authorities and affordable housing developers across the state. Compiled and summarized data received

- to create a report showing availability of public housing vouchers and housing units by Continuum of Care regions. Disseminated housing report to the seven regional continuums (that service all 93 Nebraska counties) to assist regions in accessing housing for people who are chronically homeless as well as other populations of people who are homeless.
- (10) Provided summaries of Super NOFA debriefings, both general and regional, to all Continuum of Care chairs/conveners for their review and reference.
 - (11) Facilitated technical assistance to the Northeast Continuum of Care for submission of a HUD Super NOFA Exhibit 1.
 - (12) Distributed NHAP Advisory Committee manuals with the NHAP Web site, bylaws, CoC map and committee member list, the state plan on ending chronic homelessness with a quarterly update, the regional plans, agendas and minutes, the HUD CoC manual, and relevant data.

In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Economic and Family Support, NHAP staff and administration facilitates the Ad Hoc Committee of the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH), the planning body for Nebraska's plan to end chronic homelessness. The plan was adopted by the NCHH during the program year. The plan was included in the 2005-2009 HUD Consolidated Plan submitted in May 2005.

The plan includes goals, strategies, action steps, expected outcomes and benchmarks addressing all homelessness and near homelessness. The six goals are:

- 1) Develop & establish a statewide initiative to lead Nebraskans in collaborative efforts to create strategies & initiatives that focus resources and efforts resulting in increased access to services, systems, and housing for persons experiencing chronic homelessness (and all homelessness & near homelessness)
- 2) Create Additional Appropriate and Supportive Housing Choices
- 3) Increase Access to Mainstream Services & Resources
- 4) Increase and Implement Strategies Addressing Prevention & Discharge Planning
- 5) Ensure Culturally Competent Services Across all Goals
- 6) Data Collection and Evaluation

Much of Goal 1 has been accomplished. Additionally, progress has been made in Goal 2 with the development of a rental assistance program (up to 2.0 million dollars) for seriously mentally ill persons. This is related to behavioral health reform (LB 1083 in 2004; LB 40 & LB 40A in 2005).

The Committee working on Goal 3: Increasing Access to Mainstream Services has made some progress. However, as many services are being cut at the federal level, increased access to mainstream services does not equate to receiving services.

Goal 4: Prevention and Discharge Policy has experienced some accomplishments. In the 2004 program year, the NHAP implemented an additional reporting form to track discharges from institutions based on concerns from grantees that persons were being released to homelessness. During the 2004 program year, NHAP grantees reported no unplanned discharges from institutions to emergency shelters. Additionally, the April quarterly meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee focused on discharge planning from regional (mental health) centers, correctional facilities, and youth aging out of foster care. While many policies and procedures are in place, the Committee noted the gap in discharge planning for persons who "jam their time." This is the current focus of discharge planning.

Goal 5: Cultural Competency is addressed as a separate goal but embedded in each goal. More needs to be done to address the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and racial makeup of persons who are homeless and near homeless.

The Nebraska Management Information System has been the lead in Goal 6: Data Collection and Evaluation. During the 2004 program year, the infrastructure was developed that makes it possible to collect aggregate data from agencies across the state. Initial reports from Region 6 (Lincoln CoC) have been informative. Until the NMIS is fully implemented, the NHAP staff will continue to manually compile data. The Ad Hoc Committee also tracks performance measures of the six goals into plan updates.

NHAP staff continues to work with those responsible for administering the HOPWA grant. Last year was the first year of the HOPWA grant in Nebraska. While the HOPWA program has a separate data collection system, they also are a participant in the NMIS and use ServicePoint. While HIV/AIDS persons may not identify as HIV/AIDS, the HOPWA data base reveals that persons with HIV/AIDS live in many different counties across the state.

Objective #2: HHSS will compile data from grantee monthly reports and disseminate the information to the regions. The data may be used by grantees and other Continuum of Care members to better serve people who are homeless and near homeless. The compilation of statewide data will serve as the Homeless Management Inventory System (HMIS) until grantees and other Continuum of Care members implement a statewide system.

Performance Measurement: Reports will be posted on the NHAP Web site and/or mailed to grantees on an annual basis. Chairs of regional Continuums of Care will ensure the information is imparted to regional and local (sub region) Continuum of Care members.

Progress Report: During the 2004 program year, the Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) supported the formation of the Nebraska Management Information System. Since July of 2004, representatives from three charter members incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) to manage and implement the HMIS statewide. The legal name of the organization is the Nebraska Management Information System (NMIS). This statewide system will help ensure that an unduplicated count can be aggregated effectively. All seven Continuums of Care regions are participants in the NMIS. Omaha, an entitlement city, and the Omaha Area Continuum on Housing and Homelessness (OACHH), joined the NMIS July 1, 2005 and anticipate implementing ServicePoint, the HMIS program selected by NMIS, early in 2006.

Each member has a system administrator who works with agencies to implement HMIS at the local level. Currently there are system administrators in the eastern, central, and western parts of the state. Each works with the regional Continuums of Care to implement HMIS for agencies in their respective regions. An individual agency can implement HMIS through a member and the system administrator for its respective area.

Additional members are able to join the NMIS. Membership requires (1) payment of \$1,000 membership fee and (2) hiring a system administrator. Joining as a member helps ensure security of data.

Each regional Continuum of Care is responsible for developing a plan to implement HMIS in its region.

Until full implementation of the NMIS, the NHAP staff continues to monitor reports submitted monthly by grantees. Data are compiled manually from spreadsheets maintained by NHAP staff. Reports are distributed to the regional continuums at six and 12-month intervals. The six-month report was distributed February 2005; the year-end report is distributed in August of 2005 at the NCHH Continuum of Care Committee business meeting and at the Homeless Conference.

H. Grantee Performance

During the 2004-2005 program year, grantees in regions 1-5 collaborated to assist 8,214 individuals who were homeless and 22,971 individuals who were near homeless. This compares to last year reported figures for the same regions of 5,688 individuals who were homeless and 21,735 individuals who were near homeless. The data reveal a 44.4 percent increase in the number of homeless reported for regions one through five and a 5.7 percent increase in the number of near homeless reported for the same regions. Overall, the incidence of homelessness and near homelessness reported by NHAP grantees in regions 1-5 increased by 13.7 percent over the prior program year. Tables IV and V show comparisons of the last two program years by homeless and near homeless by region. The increases are pronounced in the more rural areas.

TABLE IV:

Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program(NHAP) Regional Comparisons Fiscal Years (2003-04) (2004-05)			
Homeless Figures			
NHAP Regions	NHAP 2003-2004 Annual Figures Homeless Totals (Unduplicated)	NHAP 2004-2005 Annual Figures Homeless Totals (Unduplicated)	Percent Increase/Decrease
Region: 1 Panhandle	571	622	+ 8.9%
Region: 2 North Central	704	2,170	+ 208.2%
Region: 3 Southwest	1,415	2,432	+ 71.9%
Region: 4 Southeast	2,182	1,921	- 12.0%
Region: 5 Northeast	816	1,069	+ 31.0%
Sub-Totals Regions (1-5)	5,688	8,214	+ 44.4%
Region: 6 Lincoln	6,466	10,795	+ 67.0%
Region: 7 Omaha	15,951	Not available	Not Available
Sub-Total - Region 6	22,417	10,795	+ 67.0%
Totals (Excluding Omaha – Region 7)	28,105	10,795	+ 67.0%

TABLE V

Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program(NHAP) Regional Comparisons Fiscal Years (2003-04) (2004-05)			
Near Homeless Figures			
NHAP Regions	NHAP 2003-2004 Annual Figures Near Homeless Totals (Unduplicated)	NHAP 2004-2005 Annual Figures Near Homeless Totals (Unduplicated)	Percent Increase/Decrease
Region: 1 Panhandle	4,024	4,066	+ .6%
Region: 2 North Central	5,761	8,273	+ 41.9%
Region: 3 Southwest	3,319	3,516	+ 5.9%
Region: 4 Southeast	5,889	5,204	- 11.6%
Region: 5 Northeast	2,742	1,912	- 30.3%
Sub-Totals Regions (1-5)	21,735	22,971	+ 5.7%
Region: 6 Lincoln	19,535	15,064	- 22.9%
Region: 7 Omaha	1,864	Not available	Not available
Sub-Totals Region 6	21,399	15,064	- 22.9%
Totals (Excluding Omaha – Region 7)	43,134	15,064	- 22.9%

Note: Last year totals included Omaha grantees; HSATF data from Omaha was not available at the time of this report.

Households served by the grantees in non-entitlement cities are represented in the table below. Single and two-parent families continue to represent the largest percentage of persons who are homeless.

Regions 1-5				
Household Type	Percent to Total – Individuals in Household Type			
	Homeless		Near Homeless	
	#	%	#	%
Unaccompanied Men	1,778	21.6	848	3.8
Unaccompanied Women	1,330	16.2	2,928	12.7
Single Parent Family	3,508	42.8	9,264	40.3
Two Parent Family	1,183	14.4	8,208	35.7
Adult Couple – No Children	200	2.4	1,091	4.7
Unaccompanied Youth	215	2.6	632	2.8
TOTALS	8,214	100.0 %	22,971	100.0 %

GRANTEE: _____ Nebraska - Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, _____

GRANT PERIOD: July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005

CATEGORIES			OPERATIONS	CLIENT SERVICES	HOMELESS PREVENTION	REHABILITATION
1	Numbers should reflect those served by NHAP Funds ONLY	ESG	185,402	158,549	158,549	0
		HSATF	238,572	507,108	427,296	4,200
		TOTAL	423,974	665,657	585,845	4,200
Ethnicity			Homeless	Near Homeless		
2	Hispanic or Latino		1,558	3,407		
3	Not Hispanic or Latino		6,656	19,563		
TOTAL			8,214	22,971		
Racial Characteristics			Homeless	Near Homeless		
4	White		7,136	20,264		
5	Black/African American		342	390		
6	Asian		43	28		
7	American Indian/Alaskan Native		342	596		
8	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		58	17		
9	American Indian/Alaskan Native and White		117	1,130		
10	Asian & White		3	3		
11	Black/African American and White		30	134		
12	American Indian/Alaskan Native and Black/African American		8	8		
13	Other Multi-Racial		135	401		
TOTAL			8,214	22,971		
14	Disabled		173	796		
Status						
15	Unaccompanied Men – Total Persons Served		1,778	848		
16	Unaccompanied Women – Total Persons Served		1,330	2,928		
17	Single Parent Families - # of Families		(984)	(3,416)		
18	Single Parent Families – Total Persons Served		3,508	9,264		
19	Two Parent Families - # of Families		(242)	(2,138)		
20	Two Parent Families – Total Persons Served		1,183	8,208		
21	Adult Couple with No Children – Total Persons Served		200	1,091		
22	Unaccompanied Youth/Under 18 (Excluding State Wards) – Total Persons Served		215	632		
23	Other		0	0		
24	TOTAL PERSONS SERVED (15+16+18+20+21+22+23)		8,214	22,971		

There appears to be an increase in the number of persons who are both homeless and near homeless who identify as Hispanic/Latino. Last year the percentage of persons who identified as Hispanic/Latino and were homeless was 17 percent and near homeless was 11 percent. That represented an increase over the prior year.

This year the number of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino who were homeless increased to 19 percent; near homeless increased to 15 percent. This may be a result of more accurate reporting, as ethnicity and race have been a recent addition to reporting requirements.

Region 6 – Lincoln data are in the table below. Lincoln is included in the 2005-2006 program year for the state. Region 7 – Omaha data were not available at the time of this report.

GRANTEE: Region 6 - Lincoln GRANT PERIOD: July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005

CATEGORIES			OPERATIONS	CLIENT SERVICES	HOMELESS PREVENTION	REHABILITATION
1	Numbers should reflect those served by NHAP Funds ONLY	ESG	ENTITLEMENT CITY			
HSATF		96,650	119,613	51,600	0	
TOTAL		96,650	119,613	51,600	0	
Ethnicity			Homeless	Near Homeless		
2	Hispanic or Latino		583	1,102		
3	Not Hispanic or Latino		10,212	13,962		
Racial Characteristics			Homeless	Near Hom15,064eless		
4	White		7,673	11,524		
5	Black/African American		1,688	2,294		
6	Asian		67	33		
7	American Indian/Alaskan Native		975	605		
8	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		4	5		
9	American Indian/Alaskan Native and White		17	18		
10	Asian & White		4	4		
11	Black/African American and White		75	170		
12	American Indian/Alaskan Native and Black/African American		8	14		
13	Other Multi-Racial		284	397		
TOTAL			10,795	15,064		
14	Disabled		124	898		
Status						
15	Unaccompanied Men – Total Persons Served		6,083	2,891		
16	Unaccompanied Women – Total Persons Served		2,771	2,213		
17	Single Parent Families - # of Families		(328)	(1,737)		
18	Single Parent Families – Total Persons Served		1,252	6,965		
19	Two Parent Families - # of Families		(48)	(388)		
20	Two Parent Families – Total Persons Served		302	2,095		
21	Adult Couple with No Children – Total Persons Served		198	900		
22	Unaccompanied Youth/Under 18 (Excluding State Wards) – Total Persons Served		189	0		
23	Other		0	0		
24	TOTAL PERSONS SERVED (15+16+18+20+21+22+23)		10,795	15,064		

GRANTEE: Region 7 – Omaha

GRANT PERIOD: July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005

CATEGORIES			OPERATIONS	CLIENT SERVICES	HOMELESS PREVENTION	REHABILITATION
1	Numbers should reflect those served by NHAP Funds ONLY	ESG	ENTITLEMENT CITY			
		HSATF	188,017	330,620	55,468	0
		TOTAL	188,017	330,620	55,468	0
			Homeless		Near Homeless	
NO HSATF DATA AVAILABLE AT TIME OF THIS REPORT						

PROPOSAL REVIEW SUMMARY SHEET

RFP: 01-Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program

Date: _____

Applicant: _____

Reviewer:

Please review the proposal and score according to the category listed. Each element has total points possible listed for each individual item and a sub-total score at the end of that section. There is a section on the final page for tallying all possible points. **All questions must be answered in the space provided and not exceed the allowed space.**
Thank you for taking the time to review these proposals.

20 points

Section I. Organization, Programs, Services

History shows organization's development; mission(s) clearly states the focus of the organization's programs and services; adequacy of staffing, experience and competence of staff; demonstrated ability of project management. If the applicant plans to subcontract, provide this information on the subcontractor as well.

1. A brief history of the agency/organization is given. (2 pts.)
2. The organization's mission is stated and clear. (2 pts.)
3. The narrative addresses the adequacy of staffing, staff competencies, and project management experience. (2 pts.)
4. A description of programs and services is provided. (7 pts.)
5. The narrative provides information about the populations of people who are homeless and near homeless that the agency serves. (7 pts.)

Sub-score: _____

25 points

Section II. Program Funding Request

Describe purpose of program service. Describe how the proposed program will address client need(s). Client need may be documented by the number of persons housed per night, the number of meals provided, or other verifiable units of service provided by the applicant. Organization exhibits a record of accurate tracking of needs and services.

1. The program and services for which the agency is seeking funding is clear. (5 pts.)
2. Data: (10 pts.)

- (a) If the funding is for continuation of a program, the proposal states how many unduplicated people were served in the past year.
 - (b) If the funding is for expansion of an existing program, the request is supported by a documented increase in the number of people served.
 - (c) If the funding is for a new program, the applicant explains how the proposed program and/or service fills a gap identified by the regional Continuum of Care.
3. The proposal clearly identifies the population(s) served, client needs, and how the services proposed for funding would enable people who are homeless and near homeless achieve self-sufficiency. The proposal clearly **documents the need to serve the population the applicant proposes serving**. The case for funding the proposal is clearly made. There is evidence and/or documentation that the applicant collaborates with other agencies and organizations that serve the same population(s). Services are coordinated to avoid duplication of services. (10 pts.)
4. **NOTE:** If the applicant is a shelter, the number of beds chart needs to be filled out. No separate points are allocated for this. However, if an applicant is a shelter provider and the chart is not filled out, deduct 4 points from the overall points in Section II.

8 points

Section III. Program Data

Requested data for type of project, services, population(s) served, characteristics of populations served, and racial/ethnic characteristics. A report form is attached. (8pts.)

7 points

Section IV. Budget Information

Budget and audit reflect use of sound fiscal policy. The proposal needs to include the outlined budget completed on the forms provided. Please include a budget narrative page as well. Budget shows diversified budget funding sources.

1. The proposed budget is sufficient and appropriate to support the project presented. Budget reflects use of sound fiscal policy. (3 points)
2. The proposed budget shows diversified budget funding sources. (2 points)
3. The proposed budget follows the format required of the RFP using the format and budget categories required, including a budget narrative that clearly identifies proposed spending. (2 points)

Sub-score: _____

15 points

Section V. Effectiveness Measures

Describe the client needs, service, and how each is evaluated for effectiveness, and the expected outcomes.

1. The proposal clearly identifies the need(s), the service(s) provided to address the need(s), a plan to evaluate the effectiveness of meeting each need, and the expected outcomes. The need(s) reflect information in the narrative and/or funding request sections. (8 points)

2. Methods to measure outcomes are described and the expected outcomes are expressed in measurable units. (7 points)

Sub-score: _____

25 points

Section VI. Continuum of Care Involvement

Evidence throughout the application of coordination of services or providers implementing a continuum of care approach. Evidence that ongoing services are essential to the Regional/Local Continuum of Care and expanded services will fill a gap identified in the Regional/Local Continuum of Care.

1. Evidence of working in a Continuum of Care approach is reflected throughout the application. (13 points)
2. The proposed funding activity provides services essential to the Continuum of Care. (12 points)

Sub-score: _____

Overall Scores:

Section 1. Organization, Program, Services (20)	_____
Section II. Program Funding Request (25)	_____
Section III. Program Data (8)	_____
Section IV. Budget & Narrative (7)	_____
Section V. Effectiveness Measures (15)	_____
Section VI. Continuum of Care (25)	_____
Total Score (100 possible points)	_____

Reviewer Recommendations:

_____ **Accept proposal with no changes**

_____ **Accept proposal with changes (list changes)**

_____ **Do not accept proposal**

Suggested changes or overall comments:

Section Seven:

OTHER ACTIONS

Report on Additional Actions Required by HUD

Report on Other Actions

Address Obstacles to Meeting Under-Served Needs (Revised)

The state has identified the limitations on financial resources and human resource capacities as an obstacle to meeting under-served needs in delivering services to people who are living in poverty. As a result several actions have been taken. Antipoverty programs have been identified and the state has identified partners and resources to work together in the most efficient manner with available programs. The State of Nebraska administers a number of programs designed to reduce the number of individuals and families who live in poverty. Federal and state funding sources partner together to fund the following anti-poverty programs and committees that address the states underserved needs: Childcare Assistance, Every Woman Matters Program, Food Stamps, Head Start, TANF, Community Service Block Grants, Energy Assistance, Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness, Continuum of Care Committee, Competitive Federal Housing Funds, Transitional Housing Services, Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, Nebraska Family Housing Advisory Services, and the Lead-based Paint Hazards Program.

Affordable Housing

The state has identified that a great need exists in available housing stock that is affordable. Two primary issues exist: housing availability and affordability. In the Census 2000, about 150,000 households in Nebraska had a housing problem. Also, because many housing units in Nebraska were built prior to 1980, the risk of lead based paint hazards is a significant problem. DED has identified the critical need to make strategic and focused investments with the limited Nebraska Affordable Housing Program resources. One item that addressed this need was the implementation of the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF). The NAHTF is a state financial resource developed in 1996 to increase the supply and improve the quality of affordable housing in Nebraska. LB 1322 was signed into law on April 17, 1996, and supported by the Nebraska Affordable Housing Commission, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (Department) and the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority which worked with representatives from the League of Nebraska Municipalities, the Nebraska Bankers Association, the Nebraska Homebuilders Association, the State Chamber of Commerce and other for-profit and nonprofit housing development organizations. Additionally, LB 516 was signed into law in 2001, reauthorizing the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF). As stated by Governor Mike Johanns in his January 11, 2001 State of the State Address, the “Affordable Housing Trust Fund is helping to address the need for adequate and affordable housing in communities all across Nebraska – especially in our rural areas.”

The NAHTF was created:

- To address the need for affordable housing as identified by the Department.
- To provide a flexible housing resource to enhance economic development.
- To serve the lowest income individuals for the longest period of time.
- To provide matching funds for federal resources.

Homelessness and Other Special Needs

Providing services for people with mental illness has also been identified as an under-served need. The Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act (LB 1083); was signed into law by Governor Johanns on April 14, 2004. The legislation will allow persons with mental illness to be served closer to their home communities, support systems, family and friends, while providing safety and protection for the individuals and the community.

The Behavioral Health Reform focus is on people who would have been served at a state-operated Regional Center – persons committed by Mental Health Commitment Boards for involuntary treatment.

Approximately 700 individuals are committed to the Hastings and Norfolk Regional Centers each year. LB 1083 addresses the lack of behavioral health services once individuals no longer need the hospital-based inpatient services provided at Regional Centers or local hospitals. The new community-based system will include many levels of services. Consumers requiring crisis stabilization will access enhanced crisis center services. Community hospitals throughout the state will be able to develop acute psychiatric inpatient and secure residential services with the capacity to have locked units and highly trained staff. Residential rehabilitation services are less restrictive and more appropriate for some persons. Other non-residential community programs can provide services and reduce re-hospitalization. Regional Center beds will stay in place for individuals with high needs, and to provide specific care, such as the sexual offender and forensic programs.

Non-housing Community Development Plan

A need for educating local government and planning officials in Federal and State Statutes as well as land use and environmental issues was recognized. In order for community development projects to have a positive impact on a community, local officials must have a better understanding and acknowledgement of these Federal and State Statutes. The Department conducted five trainings attended by 148 registrants from 122 municipalities and/or organizations for CDBG administration. Training sessions included the all-inclusive CDBG certification and re-certification, environmental, construction/labor standards, and preparation for monitoring. All awarded municipalities were required to send a local representative to a one-day training to review the local municipalities responsibility regarding the CDBG award. The Nebraska Chapter APA in collaboration with the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association and the Nebraska Lied Main Street Program conducted a 3-day statewide institute on land use management issues attended by more than 200 persons. Those in attendance represented several communities preparing and implementing planning projects funded through CDBG Program. The University of Nebraska Division of Continuing Studies demonstrated the Nebraska Planning Handbook site to those in attendance. The handbook is now available at: <http://neplanning.unl.edu>. The online capabilities of the handbook allow for it to be continually updated and maintained.

Actions to Foster and Maintain Affordable Housing and to Remove Barriers to Affordable Housing

The state recognizes it shares responsibility with federal and local governments for shaping a regulatory climate that encourages housing while maintaining needed health, safety, environmental, and consumer protections. The cost, benefits, and tradeoffs of various regulations must be weighed carefully so they promote the affordability and availability of housing. In addition, the administration of regulations must be done in a way that reduces costs and delays.

DED's Housing Strategies are developed to remove barriers to affordable housing and foster and maintain affordable housing. Please refer to the Housing Development Priority Section of the 2004 CAPER to review that information for the 2004 Program Year. In addition, the Nebraska Behavioral Health Reform legislation was amended to include rental assistance for adults with serious mental illness to the Behavioral Health Service Fund. This will allow Regional Behavioral Health Authorities to manage the rental assistance in conjunction with behavioral health services.

Coordination of Low Income Housing Tax Credits with Affordable Housing Development

As an incentive for the provision of affordable, low-income rental housing, Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Service tax code provides for the taking of tax credits against the development cost. The Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) allocated these federal tax credits for qualified projects in the state. To better coordinate the use of tax credits with other federal housing programs (e.g. CDBG,

USDA-RD housing loans, and HOME); NIFA and NDED worked extensively on the development and training for a 2005 HOME LIHTC set-aside and one application process.

Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards

The following developments occurred during the 2004 program year for the Statewide Rural Lead-Based Paint Hazard Evaluation and Reduction Program. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) continued providing services in the Lead Hazard and Reduction Program. By the end of the 2004 program year, three community-based organizations were under contract. More than 129 households were approved for assistance of which 76 were completed through the program. There are 115 risk assessors, 4 paint inspectors, 84 lead abatement supervisors and 64 lead-safe work practices workers on the list of lead professionals and workers that is maintained by HHSS. The DED website has a lead-based paint question and answer section, which provides an interactive discussion area for lead paint issues.

Efforts to Reduce the Number of Persons Living Below the Poverty Level

The housing strategies and objectives focus on creating and maintaining a supply of affordable, decent housing. Affordable housing is an integral component to keep people off public assistance, since affordable housing (by definition) allows people to spend only 30% or less of their gross monthly income on housing related utilities and rent/housing payments. Such individuals then have more income to devote to other necessities. The State's homeownership programs provide quality homeownership counseling to individuals before homes are purchased in an effort to keep people from moving back below the poverty level once they take on more financial responsibilities.

Jobs paying a living wage are also key to keeping people off public assistance. Jobs are created and individuals are trained in various skills either directly or indirectly with almost every economic development objective and housing objective in the *Annual Action Plan*. Every one of the Economic Development Priority's objectives either train individuals for the workforce, or creates or retains jobs. As an example of a housing objective that creates jobs, one housing objective creates jobs in the housing industry by increasing the amount of financial resources invested in housing projects. More projects mean more construction and rehabilitation, creating more jobs paying good wages.

Development of an Improved Institutional Structure and Enhancement of Coordination between Public and Private Housing and Social Service Agencies

The Water Wastewater Task Force is made up of representatives from USDA-RD, DED, DEQ and HHSS. The task force met regularly to review water and wastewater projects during the 2004 program year. The task force devised strategies for technical assistance and the application process on a case-by-case basis.

Technical Assistance Review Process (TARP) provided the following technical assistance to housing applicants:

- How to assess needs of your community
- How to access financial resources
- How to acquire regional and community support
- How to create affordable housing infrastructure
- How to design an affordable housing project
- How to select a development team
- Review of preliminary application, etc.

Individuals from DED, USDA-RD, HUD, NIFA and the NE Energy Office make up the TARP team. The team met monthly throughout the 2004 program year.

DED also took many actions to coordinate with agencies providing health, mental health, housing, and supportive services in 2004. Nebraska has a strong network of public, nonprofit, and private organizations to fulfill housing and support service needs. Many state programs and/or local organizations exist in these areas. Since the needs are many and resources are limited, this network cannot meet all housing and supportive needs. The state coordinated with many agencies during the 2004 program year. Some examples follow:

- DED coordinated the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness. NCHH members solicit participation from state and nonprofit agencies that provide mental health, health, and housing services.
- DED is involved in State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services.

Fostering Public Housing Resident Initiatives

The state does not operate public housing units. Action in this area was therefore one of advocacy. DED worked with local public housing agencies and supported efforts to increase the involvement of residents in public housing management and provide them with expanded homeownership opportunities. DED consulted with the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations (NAHRO) on these matters.

Leveraging Resources

The state makes every effort to leverage HOME, ESG, and CDBG funds with non-federal resources. In the past, HOME and CDBG funds have been leveraged by significant amounts (and varying types) of private and non-federal public funds. A description of all these resources can be found in the "Inventory of Housing Resource Programs available from DED.

The match for the HOME program is attained by: 1) requiring that individual grantees and CHDO's report annually the eligible sources of HOME match from their housing projects and programs; 2) the dollars awarded from the NAHTF program that serve income eligible persons.

The Nebraska Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund, which generates more the \$800,000 annually from a portion of the state's documentary stamp tax, provides the 100% match for the Emergency Shelter Grant program.

Section Eight:

**Community Development Block Grant Program
Report**

Introduction

This report is submitted according to Section 104(e) of the Housing and Community Development Act and 24 CFR 570.491 which requires grantees to report on the administration of the State and Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. This report is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. All grants made to local governments since 1993 are summarized along with accomplishments and beneficiary data.

Background

Congress established the CDBG program through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Act sought to streamline the application and review process for several categorical grant and loan programs. It also intended to provide local governments a greater voice in determining the best way to meet community development needs.

According to Federal enabling legislation, the CDBG program's primary objective is the development of viable community by providing decent housing, suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. This is achieved through eligible activities which must benefit persons of low and moderate income; prevent or eliminate slums and blight; or meet an urgent community development need. The activities by major grouping are public facilities, housing rehabilitation, housing development, comprehensive community/neighborhood revitalization, economic development, business development, and planning.

Prior to 1982 the program was administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for large urban areas and rural areas. With the enactment of the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1981, state governments had the option of administering the non-entitlement CDBG program.

Nebraska was one of the 35 states that immediately assumed administration of the CDBG program. In September 1981, Governor Charles Thone directed the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) to establish a state CDBG program. The program was initially designed through an extensive process of local consultation with local governments. The program serves all incorporated municipalities under 50,000 population and all counties--a total of 626 eligible local governments.

Local design for the program continues to take place on an annual basis with the continuation of the extensive process of local consultation.

EXPLANATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT

The Performance Evaluation Report is divided into sections for each CDBG allocation year, 1993-2004. Each part contains information on the State's performance under each grant received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

OUTLINE FOR EACH SECTION OF THE REPORT

PART I -

Financial Status
National Objectives
Grant Activities Summary

PART II -

Assessment of Relationship of Use of Funds to State Objectives

PART III -

Civil Rights data for program applicants and beneficiaries

PART I - FINANCIAL STATUS AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

GRANT NO.

This is the grant number from the U.S. Department of Housing Development for the Community Development Block Grant to the State of Nebraska. The first two digits following the letter "B" indicate the year of the federal allocation of funds. For example: B-99-DC-31-001 indicates that funds were allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development in 1999. Grants awarded to local governments in Nebraska from the 1999 allocation are listed under this grant number.

DATA AS OF

As required by HUD the information for this report is submitted based on grants awarded through June 30, 2004. Drawdown amounts are as of June 30, 2004.

FINANCIAL STATUS

The financial status section of the report summarizes all funds allocated to the state by HUD; program income distributed in the specific grant year; amounts obligated to recipients; amounts drawn down; and amount of allocation to be used for state administration and technical assistance.

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Each activity, except for administration, must meet a national objective of the Housing and Community Development Act. National objectives are designated as LMI - principally benefits low and moderate-income persons; S/B - prevents or eliminates slums/blight; URG - meets a community development need having a particular urgency. The amounts in this section indicate the amount of each year's allocation, which benefit each of the three national objectives.

NATIONAL OBJECTIVES - BENEFIT PERIOD

The 1983 amendments to the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act required that 51% of the aggregate of CDBG funds shall benefit low and moderate income persons for a three year period. The State's initial certification period was 1984-1986. The second benefit period was stated as 1987-1989. The 1987 amendments to the HCD Act required that 60% of the funds benefit lower income persons for a three-year period. The State established the period to be 1988-1990. The Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 increased the required benefit to 70%. The current three-year benefit period is 2002-2004.

PART II - GRANT ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

This part of the Performance Evaluation Report contains summary data on each grant for each of the years which the state has received an allocation for Community Development Block Grant funds.

Recipient Name

Identifies the city, town, village or county awarded grant funds.

Project No

This is the project number assigned by the State of Nebraska.

Grant Status

Reports the stage that the grant is in. For example: Ashton Project No. 00WW009 is in the release of funds stage in its status. Grant Status runs from the stages, Award – Closeout, with the exception of terminate for projects that have been terminated.

HUD Matrix

List all activities in general categories, for which CDBG funds were received. The activities are presented in general categories as classified by the HUD IDIS Matrix System.

Use Name

List all the uses in general categories, for which CDBG funds were received. The uses are presented in general categories as classified by the State of Nebraska.

Activity Status

This column is used to indicate new activities, modified budget amounts and completion of an activity. Any grant with new activities since July 1, 2003 will be represented by “N” in this column. Any grant with changes to the budget since July 1, 2003 will be represented by “M” in this column.

Amount

This column refers to the financial amount approved for each activity. If the project is completed, the actual amount expended is reported. If an activity within a project was funded with money from multiple program years the amount is individually listed with the corresponding year. *

Year

This column refers to the program year that the funds for a project originated in.

Purpose

The general purpose for project funding are: ED - Economic Development; PF - Public Facilities; HO - Housing; PL - Planning; and PS - Public Service.

National Objective

Each activity, except for administration, must meet a national objective of the Housing and Community Development Act. The national objective for a project falls under one of three main categories, which are: LMI - principally benefits low and moderate income persons (LMA, LMC, LMCMC, LMH and LMJ); S/B - prevents or eliminates slums/blight; URG - meets a community development need having a particular urgency. The national objective met by each activity is indicated for each grant.

Accomplishment Name

The accomplishment name identifies the type of unit, which is measured. For example, the accomplishment name for housing rehabilitation is "# of housing units" which is the number of housing units rehabilitated.

* The amounts and years are all listed separately, but the remainder of the information for the activity are only reported on one line. Example: the Colon Planning Project 00PP01 used funds from 1995, 1998 and 2000 for the planning activity.

Proposed and Actual Accomplishments - Units

This number represents the total units proposed or accomplished by the specific grant. For example, there were 15 housing units proposed to be rehabbed under the Alliance 00HO103 grant.

Proposed Beneficiaries – Total and LMI and %

The proposed number of persons benefited under each activity is shown for each grant. The LMI column represents the number of the proposed total beneficiaries that are LMI. The % column gives the percent of the total that is LMI.

Actual Beneficiaries – Total and LMI and %

The actual number of persons benefited under each activity is shown for each grant. The LMI column represents the number of the actual total beneficiaries that are LMI. The % column gives the percent of the total that is LMI.

PART II – NARRATIVE

Part II of the report includes a summary of the relationship of the use of funds to the State's objectives. This is a brief summary, which compares the stated purpose for the use of the CDBG funds in Nebraska with the actual distribution of funds.

PART III - CIVIL RIGHTS

Part III is a listing of all grants made from each grant year and provides Civil Rights characteristics for each activity funded under the grants. A narrative assessment of Civil Rights performance, Fair Housing actions, and Minority and Women-Owned business participation is included with the 1993 through 2004 reports.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT/PROJECT NUMBER

Identifies the city, town, village or county awarded grant funds and the project number assigned by the State of Nebraska.

ACTIVITY NAME

The activity name, as classified by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, is shown for each eligible activity.

BENEFICIARY DATA

Beneficiary data is shown using the six characteristic categories identified by HUD. The categories shown are: Category 1 - White, Not Hispanic; Category 2 - Black, Not Hispanic; Category 3 -Hispanic; Category 4 - Asian or Pacific Islander; Category 5 – American Indian/Alaskan Native; and Category 6 - Female Heads of Household.

Beneficiary data should not be considered final until grants are closed.

***CONTACT JEN BOLEN AT NDED TO OBTAIN COPIES OF
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